



UPCOMING EVENTS

Compiled by Michelle Ortiz

The busiest months of the year are here! Keep track of these upcoming events compiled by The Lion's Epistle staff!

- PTF meeting — Nov. 21st
- Door Decorating— Nov. 22nd
- Thanksgiving break— Nov. 22nd-27th
- OCC Trip— Nov. 27th-28th
- BVB pre-season tournament— Dec. 1st
- FCS Christmas concert— Dec. 7th
- Christmas break— Dec. 22nd-Jan. 1st
- New Year's Day— Jan. 1st 2024

MEET THE LATEST INDUCTEES

By Hope Light

On Monday, November 6th, FCS held our annual National Honor Society induction ceremony. At this event, we celebrate students who are joining our school's chapter of the National Honor Society, a nationwide program for outstanding high school students. Membership is awarded to students who demonstrate scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These students then take part in planning and running service projects and school events, including fundraisers, Pi Day, and more. This year, the NHS welcomed six new members: Gwen Fossa, Jakob Gillow, Nina Gonzalez, Keanan McElroy, Falon Schaefer, and Colton Whistler. We are proud of these student leaders, and we can't wait to see what they'll accomplish!



GETTING THE BALL ROLLING

by Stephen Williams

With lots of changes in the upcoming basketball season, including two new coaches and the first girls middle school team in years, it was time to ask our beloved Athletic Director a few questions!

What do you look for in a coach? "Godliness, I let them know in a letter before they come, that we are looking for a Godly person who loves the Lord. To teach the guys, good basketball is aggressive but not mean. We want Christian character, along with basketball."

Is there anything new coming to the basketball season? "Just that we have a middle school girls team. It has been 6-10 years since. They are excited. We have about 10-11 girls on the team."

Will there be an all-star game? "What happens is, the reason they stopped is that track starts after basketball. Since we have the next sport right after we wouldn't have time to do it. We do have an all star team but won't have any games."

Do the new coaches have any past experiences? "Oh yeah, the middle school boys coach had coached football for many years. He hasn't coached basketball but he did in football. Our girls coach hasn't coached but has played basketball for years."

What is being done to prepare for the basketball season? "I know the varsity coach has been planning since last year, working on drills and stuff. When the coaches came in they were prepared, and we're always ready to build."

How do you think the classes this year will intermingle on the basketball teams? "They should get along, if not they have to learn to. I've seen some maturity levels in middle school from last year. I do believe they will get along."

Where is the tournament going to be held this year? "The varsity tournament is at Trinity, the middle school tournament is at Bergen. We don't have it at Forks because of the price."



THE LION'S EPISTLE

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THANKSGIVING

By Hope Light

Thanksgiving is a day of gratitude, appreciation, and praise to God for everything He has given us. On it, we celebrate God's provision in giving us family, friends, safe homes, food, and so much more. We have so much to be grateful for, and Thanksgiving is a wonderful reminder to not take our blessings for granted.

Thanksgiving was first celebrated in 1621 by a group of English settlers and Native Americans. The settlers hosted a feast for multiple days as a way to thank God for providing for them in their new homes. However, the holiday wasn't officially observed at the federal level until 242 years later, in 1863, when President Lincoln signed it into law. Since then, it has been a major American holiday, marking the end of fall and the beginning of the Christmas season.

Many secondary aspects have become part of Thanksgiving over the years. The holiday may bring to mind turkeys, football games, or a Charlie Brown special. We also associate it with a few other holidays within the week, namely Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday. While we enjoy Thanksgiving with its fun, food, and traditions, let's remember to thank God for all He's given us. Happy Thanksgiving!



STRESS AWARENESS

By Joseph Vitti



Stress is a prevalent issue in our society. Humans are subjected to a severe amount of stress on a daily basis. Wednesday, November 1, 2023, was national stress awareness day. Stress is a big issue, and everyone struggles with it to different degrees. Around 42% of the global population experiences worry or stress regularly. This is bad for people's mental and physical health. Being constantly under stress can put strain on your mind, and body, causing adverse effects at different severities such as muscle tension, digestive problems, headaches, weight gain or loss, trouble sleeping, heart disease, susceptibility to cancer, high blood pressure, and stroke. These side effects are very serious, but fortunately only happen in cases of chronic and or severe stress. What can be done to solve this? It is beneficial to many to just take a break, take a breath, and relax. For some, dealing with stress on their own can be very difficult. Stress for some can be dealt with through therapy, and neurological specialists. How can you help someone who is under stress constantly? You should always be there for said person, and support them through their hard times. Always make sure they get the proper amount of rest in between stressful activities so they don't get burnt out. Without the proper amount of rest, their body can't recover from the stress they are experiencing. Stress is a prevalent issue, but it can be helped with support from others. If you know someone who has a lot of stress in their life, just be there for them. They will get through it!



FCS SOCCER TOURNAMENTS



By Megan Erwin

The 2023 FCS soccer season officially came to an end with the annual league tournaments. This year, FCS had the honor of hosting the Boys and Girls Varsity tournaments at their home field, while the Middle School Soccer team went away to have their tournament at Trinity's field. The MSS tournaments were held on Thursday, October 26 and Friday, October 27. Occupying the fourth seed, the FCS Middle School team was ready and eager to give their all for the last games of the season. On Thursday, the team went up against Abundant Life Nutley, but they unfortunately lost. Despite this, the two teams both showed excellent sportsmanship and cheered for each other throughout the rest of the tournament. On Friday, MSS versed Arrow Academy for third place. Despite an amazing game played and a goal by Brandon Fox, the team did not win this game. However, the Middle School Soccer team still had an amazing season, and even received some awards showcasing this. They won the Christian Character Award, a title that is voted on by every team in the league. This award shows the excellent sportsmanship and Christ-like behavior represented by the Middle School team. There were also some individual rewards received by members of the team. Congratulations to Leah Roometua for winning the team's individual Christian Character Award, and to Sophie DeLorme and Brandon Fox for making the league All-Star team! A week after these tournaments, the Boys and Girls Varsity teams had their tournaments on Thursday, November 2, and Friday, November 3. The FCS Girls, being in the fourth seed, were one of the first teams to play that day. Versing Veritas, the girls played well, but ultimately, they did not win the match. The Faith BVS team versed Trinity later on that day, but unfortunately lost as well. Friday held the league consolation and championship games. For the Girls, the consolation game was FCS versus Trinity and American versus Veritas for the championship. The FCS Girls had a great and enjoyable last game, but they were unable to win, putting Trinity in 3rd place for the league. The Girls championship game was very close, but ultimately resulted in a victory for Veritas, putting them in first place and ACS in second. The FCS boys versed American for third place in the consolation game. After an aggressive and hard match, the FCS Boys team ultimately secured the victory and the third place trophy. The Boys championship game was a match between Veritas and Trinity, in which Veritas ended up winning, securing first place in the league, with Trinity in second.





BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

By Michelle Ortiz and Gloria James

With Thanksgiving having passed, most people look for Black Friday to fulfill most of their spending needs. Black Friday, commonly known as the day after Thanksgiving, is one of the biggest shopping days of the year in the United States. National chain stores such as Walmart or Target along with online shops offer deals on all different types of goods to encourage people to shop. "It is believed by many that the term Black Friday derives from the concept that businesses operate at a financial loss, or are 'in the red,' until the day after Thanksgiving, when massive sales finally allow them to turn a profit, or put them 'in the black,' Don Vaugh writes in his article "Why is it Called Black Friday?" However, this isn't really the reason. He continues, "A more accurate explanation of the term dates back to the early 1960s when police officers in Philadelphia began using the phrase 'Black Friday' to describe the chaos that resulted when large numbers of suburban tourist came into the city to begin their holiday shopping and, in some years, attended Saturday's annual Army-Navy football game. The phrase 'Black Friday' didn't become popular until the 1980's when the red-to-black profit narrative was spread. Black Friday has another connotation as well that doesn't even relate to shopping. Vaugh explains that, "In 1869 Wall Street financiers Jay Gould and Jim Fisk attempted to corner the nation's gold market at the New York Gold Exchange by buying as much of the precious metals as they could, with the intention of sending prices skyrocketing. On Friday, September 24, intervention by Ulysses S. Grant caused their plan to fall apart. The stock market instantly plummeted, sending thousands of Americans into bankruptcy. Stores across America drop prices and offer deals that no one can turn down. Every year, stores are flooded with shoppers of all ages. Who needs to shop in person when you can do it all from the comfort of your home?"

Cyber Monday is a more modern alternative to the event of Black Friday. Starting in the year 2005, this holiday first received its name from an online article created by the National Retail Federation (NRF) which discussed the rise in online sales on the Monday following Thanksgiving. In the article, the executive in the NRF, Ellen Davis, came up with the name "Cyber Monday". Ever since then, the term "Cyber Monday" has been a household name. After its initial conception, it boomed once more in 2008 during the Great Recession. The Great Recession was a time where Americans were left jobless and faced various financial difficulties and even housing problems. Due to this, people turned towards online shopping to become a cheaper and faster alternative to the yearly drive to the local Walmart or Staples. Of course, Amazon was the top site of these online purchases at the time, and remains so to this day. Over the years other major events such as the Pandemic have also had their part in ramping up purchases online during this day. Even now, some people instead refer to this as the "Cyber five" or "Cyber Week" due to all the spending that occurs during the five days from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday.

In modern-day, there are about 99.6 million shoppers online during this Cyber Week, spending a total of \$11.3 billion each year. The average shopper is said to spend about \$146.75 each Cyber Monday. Online shoppers do all this spending just from their phone, with more than half of these purchases being done from a mobile device. According to Annual trends, there will be a revenue of \$13.7 billion this year during Cyber Monday. Over the many years, online shopping has become a more convenient and affordable way to make purchases rather than going to a real store. With this in mind, these projections are sure to come true for this year. Even outside of the holiday, online purchases continue to rise thanks to sites such as Temu, Shein, Amazon and many others. In the past few years, other shopping days have been followed after Black Friday such as Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday. These encourage people to support small businesses, shop online, and give to charities. This holiday season, will you too be going to the busy stores at your local shopping center? Or will you simply leave it all to the push of a button?

UPCOMING BOY'S VARSITY BASKETBALL SEASON

By Connor Roddy

With the wrap-up of the 2023 soccer season comes the opening of the boys' varsity basketball season. The FCS boys' basketball team has been training hard for the games that will occur throughout the 2023-24 season, and it is highly encouraged that you as FCS students come to support the team! They will be kicking off their season with a tournament on December 1st at the Calvary Baptist Church in New York, and more games for their official season starting soon afterward! Shortly, a schedule will be posted, noting down the BVB game times, dates, and locations. The Lion's Epistle welcomes all students and parents to come attend games and support the team that is giving it their all this season!

OCC PACKAGING

BY Stephen Williams and Joseph Vitti

On November 16 and 17 of 2023, Faith Christian packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child, as they have done annually since 2008. This year elementary and middle school packed boxes throughout Thursday, leaving high school to finish the job on Friday. In case you were wondering, once the boxes are made, they're sent to a warehouse where they are sorted and double-checked to ensure that all items inside of the box are appropriate to be sent. Most importantly, they add pamphlets called "The Greatest Gift" with the boxes distributed to the children. These are available in their native language so that way they can know the true meaning of Christmas; the story of Jesus Christ. Usually, these packages are simply shipped from the school to the warehouse faculty with no further work from FCS. However, this year, on November 27th and 28th, some FCS students and faculty are heading down to the warehouse in Maryland to serve; processing boxes to make sure that they are delivered to those in need around the world. This year, FCS packed a total of 253 boxes, in which 125 came from elementary, and 128 from MS-HS. The students did exemplary, and were eager to learn about this process, being very interested, asked lots of questions, and grasped the importance of packing these shoe boxes. This activity is not only limited to the students of FCS. FCS offers itself as a drop off site for parents and community members alike. A parent came in to drop off shoe boxes, who was an alum of FCS herself. This is the first place she packed shoe boxes and since graduating, she continues packing boxes with her children. Samaritan's Purse anticipates collecting over 11 million shoe box gifts this year. Since they began collecting shoe box gifts, over 200 million have been collected and distributed. They are distributed through local churches in over 120 countries, where children are then offered the option to join a 12 week discipleship program called "The Greatest Journey". For every 10 boxes packed statistics have shown 4 of those children will go through The Greatest Journey with a potential of at least 2 accepting Christ as their Savior.



THE BINDER DILEMMA

By Joseph Vitti

Today, the Lion's Epistle searches to answer the age-old question. What color binder should be used for different subjects? Everyone seems to have different opinions on this; some believe that math should be red and English should be green; others believe differently, so let's see what the Faith Christian School students and faculty think about this! We can't wait to see what everyone thinks. The Lion's Epistle will be announcing the ranking next edition! Please scan the QR code to answer.



SCAN ME

THANKSGIVING POETRY FROM FCS STUDENTS

GRAZIE

By Alyssa Thomas, Grade 8

I'm thankful for my parents,
even when they're not healthy.

I'm thankful for my home,
even if I'm not wealthy.

I'm grateful for my siblings, although they're
annoying,
I remember the fun and start rejoicing.

I'm thankful for my friends, near and far.
I love them no matter where they are.

I'm thankful for my cousins, like siblings to me.
When I'm with them I'm very happy.

I'm thankful for a God that's forgiving and faithful.
The only way to make life eternal.

So grazie, I'm thankful for all of this.
God gave me all this, but all is His.

KALE ON THANKSGIVING

By Adriana Zaso, Grade 5

Too much kale on the dinner table.
How did kale make it to thanksgiving dinner?
Anyone who likes kale, I do not have a problem with,
Not that I am not thankful for God making kale,
Kale, for me is just not appetizing.
So in the end thank and praise God for kale.

PRETTY TREES AND AUTUMN LEAVES

By Katie Gonzalez, Grade 7

It's the end of summer
Yes, fall is here
I think it's time
For some Autumn cheer
Light candles
And a Starbucks drink
I know it's a lovely time
What do you think?
Well let me talk about a holiday
Going way back in time
Why don't you think about it?
As I think of a rhyme
Yes, it's called Thanksgiving!
It's right before Christmas
It's a time to think about
The way we've been living.
Have we been thankful?
For all our blessings?
Yes? No?
Let me teach you a lesson.
Gathering together in the nick of time?
Now that's a moment to let your thankfulness shine!
Don't be embarrassed, we have to think of a time
When we were really happy
When we were blessed
Can you think of it?
Yes!
Whether it's the love that we share
The food, the smells, the crazy hair?
This fall season
We have a reason
To be thankful.

DRINKING APPLE CIDER

By Blake Overmyer, Grade 1

Drinking apple cider
while sitting in a chair
My family right beside Me
no worry to be where

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT TURKEY

By Penelope "Seuss" Little, Grade 6

Why do we all love turkey so much?
Why not a roast?
Or some toast?
You need not boast.
About your turkey.
When you could be eating a roast.
I'm thankful for stuffing, soggy toast
Some people like pie the most
Apple or pumpkin not me.
I like soggy toast.
But enough about toast
Or roasts.
I'm thankful I'm not the turkey!



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THE SPINKS FAMILY



THANKSGIVING SCRAMBLE

Tis' the season to be-eaten?! Thanksgiving is here, and Tom is in trouble! He was chosen as a pardon turkey if he could recite a password to the farmer. The only problem? He forgot it! Unscramble the words and use the letters below to find the code to help Tom to survive another winter!

- TEYRUK _ _ _ _ _
- EUHOPLF _ _ _ _ _
- ECRRARNBY _ _ _ _ _
- PDUDNGI _ _ _ _ _
- ORATS _ _ _ _ _
- RAETLETHF _ _ _ _ _
- AYVRG _ _ _ _ _
- VTERUI _ _ _ _ _
- ODIBNGN _ _ _ _ _
- TESOR _ _ _ _ _
- ETDIRUGIA _ _ _ _ _

Answers will be posted in the next issue!