

THE PAW PRINT



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Headmaster Letter

Mr. Todt

As August 18th approaches, I get more and more excited. I know there are many challenges to this year, but even in the midst of this there are so many good things. I really wish more people would be at FCS to benefit from what the LORD is bringing our way this school year.

In this issue we have packed a lot of information about the upcoming school year. So, please read all the articles. I've attempted to leave the fluff at a minimum and make your reading worth your time.

Among these important items are dates for the beginning of the year. New this year is the high school orientation night for grades 7-12. In this meeting, I will pass on information I would for you to hear from me and not just through your student. The elementary parents enjoy great communication with their orientation. I believe we can and need to capture this in the high school.

There is an article letting you know about some revisions to current policies. We are making a concerted effort to emphasize life skills that we teach. These are not skills that one acquires by taking a class, but by being around adults who have "been around the block a few times" and

1st Annual School Year Kick-off

On Saturday the 20th of August, around 6:00 pm, we will have a cookout at school on the fields, playground area and parking lot. We have arranged for someone to bring their giant pit grill to cook a large volume of hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be cookies, chips, drinks and lots of fun. The fields will be open for people to bring Frisbees, balls and gloves, footballs, etc. to play on the field.

When Dr. Emerson first approached me about this, I told him that I needed someone to own it, love it and make sure it would happen. He has all those things. We are unified in the belief that we work hard and have much to be thankful for, so we should play hard and enjoy our time together in honor of the LORD's blessings. So, come for food, fellowship and fraternity.

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know that there are values taught in between class and in everyday interaction and are necessary for success at their job and other areas of adult life.

In His Service, Mr. Todt

July 28-Official start of volleyball season
August 6-Saturday Soccer Skills day
August 10-Elementary supply drop off day (1-2 pm)
August 13-Golf Tournament
August 15-High school supply drop off; 7th grade orientation for students; 7-12 Orientation for parents
August 16-Elementary and New Parent Orientation
August 18-First day of school
August 19-Elementary Choir interest meeting
August 20-First Annual kick-off event
August 22-Mandatory Athletic parent meeting
August 23-25-Senior Retreat
August 25-27-Talent show screenings

We will have food provided so we are asking a minimal amount. \$2 a person and \$5 per family. I know times are tough but this is an important event, so please don't let that be a deterrent. If you don't want to eat, just come for the fellowship.

The Grillmaster does need an idea of how many people will come so he can have a ballpark idea of how much to get ready for. You will receive an email from the school later on. Please respond and let us know how many will be attending. On the parent orientation nights, we will have a table set up where you can sign up and pay for the event. It would be best to pay in advance because it will reduce wasting money on food.

Can't wait to see you there.

21st Century skills: Life Skills

By Mr. Todt

Last year I wrote some articles about a movement within the United States to rethink how we do education to address a very serious concern that we will be falling behind in the competition of the flat, international economy. More and more research is coming out that supports the data and ideas in this movement. The recent movie “*Waiting for Superman*,” which addresses this to a certain degree, revealed the same concerns within our community of Calhoun County.

One of the recurring themes is that the latest crop of employees in the United States lack life-skills more than they do the content related skills of available jobs. Over and over again employers are pleading with schools to produce students who are ethical, creative, punctual and service-oriented. They will hire people who have the knowledge to do the job, but then have to fire them

because they steal or lie, because they are not respectful to their bosses or their customers, they do not come to work on time (and do not see a problem with it), they spend too much time on their phone or computer or use it at inappropriate times or in inappropriate ways, and they do not dress appropriately for their dress code, working environment, or industry.

I have personally seen colleagues summarily terminated because they did not arrive on time, did not come dressed appropriately; they were stealing or did not properly stow or use their cell phone. These businesses just cannot afford to have this sort of thing going on and expect to stay in business.

Therefore, to be part of the solution and no longer part of the problem, we will begin to view certain

See *Life Skills* on page 4

Six Distinctives of FCS: What sets us apart from *every other* school in Calhoun County?

By Mr. Todt

As I have completed my first year as Headmaster, I have learned a few things about our school. The Headmaster has the opportunity to interview every new family that comes to our school. My interviews with families usually include asking what it is about our school that they wish to come here. As I have conducted these interviews and tours I have learned a great deal about our school. At least, I have learned a great deal about what people in the community believe about our school. Unfortunately, being a Christian school carries with it a stereotype that is unfortunate and inaccurate about our school. I was unaware of these misconceptions. The purpose of this article is to let you know so that when you tell people about our school, you can make sure they do not believe these things about our school.

1. Accreditation and Certification: Many people in our community think that as a Christian school we are not accredited and that our teachers are not certified. Even

Dress Code clarifications:

- Shirts may only have 2 or 3 buttons.
- Shirts may be any color or pattern, just not offensive, tight or see through
- Shorts may not be “cargo” shorts.

professors at JSU have told their student teachers not to bother to checkout our school because it is not accredited.

2. Church/School relationship: Many people have assumed that because we are a Christian school the church runs the school and that we will teach the Presbyterian religion. They need to know that we are a Board run school that has a policy driven relationship between headmaster and board. They need to know that we teach the bible and bible study skills without espousing a particular denomination.
3. Imposition of sectarian values: Many people assume that because we are a Christian school that the school will have certain moral and legalistic requirements of our parents and students that are based in the church’s peculiar beliefs. People need to know that our views on dress code, student behavior, etc. are based on the idea of shared moral ideas that are necessary for a good school and a good reputation in the community.
4. Cleanliness: I cannot tell you how many first-time visitors are surprised that our Christian school is so

Please see *Distinctives* on page 3

Distinctives from page 2

clean and that our facilities are in such good condition. I take it for granted, but many schools do not have the dedicated custodial staff and administrative/board commitment to facilities. I personally believe that we have the cleanest school bathrooms in Calhoun County. I have yet to use one that beats ours and I am so grateful for this.

5. Academic Excellence: Many people are surprised to find out that as a Christian school, we have such a high commitment to excellence and do not hide behind our religion to justify academic deficiencies. I explain to them that my belief does not allow me to have lower academic standards or dilute our education. In fact, I believe the very bible that is taught here requires that I have a school of excellence. If I teach the bible and yet do not have a good school, I believe I am a hypocrite. Just because I teach the bible, it cannot make up for producing an ignorant or poorly-educated graduate.
6. Discipline: Many people have believed that as a Christian school our discipline is about legalistic and moralistic training. Our retention of paddling as an acceptable form of discipline is grossly misunderstood. Unfortunately, people think this because religious institutions are more known for their misuse of such power instead of their judicious and ethical use of it. While we are strict and we do paddle, these are all based in an educational purpose

School-wide Talent Show

By Mrs. Callahan

FCS Talent Show
Oct. 13, 2011
Get Ready!!!

Who Can participate? We are encouraging students in grades 1-12. Whole classes. Athletic teams. Faith Parents and their kids together. Teachers, coaches, administration and all other personnel are invited to participate.

What type of acts may be performed? We ask that students be **Creative.**

Here are a few suggested categories: Musical acts, group or solo, dance acts, comedy skits, serious skits, percussion performances, body percussion, dramatic readings, or **any other talent or skill** that you are good at it. We want a lot of variety!!

Acts must be approved. There are 30 slots to be

Dress Code clarifications

- Any type of clothing worn over a "dress-code" shirt will be considered outerwear.
- Implementation of the PE short will be phased in over the first couple weeks of school.
- The only change in the Elementary dress code will be the "tucked-in" rule.

and done with love and accountability. In many cases, our discipline, including paddling, is that only thing standing between a student and expulsion or a student and a seriously self-destructive life habit.

When you get the chance, make sure potential families do not think these stereotypes are true. Our school is unique and if the truth be known, we have a niche` in the educational community that is shared by no one else.

Coach of the Year!!

Congratulations to Coach Bobby Wilkins for his achievement. His peers voted him as Calhoun County Coach of the year. Coach Wilkins has been the FCHS softball coach for four years and has taken his team to post-season play all four years. His team has won the area 3 times and gone to regionals 3 years. The LORD has blessed us with a gifted, resourceful and talented coach for our Softball Team.

filled for the program. Acts will be given approval for performance based upon preparation and quality of the act shown at the approval time.

****We would love to have parents and their children participate together.**

****We would love to see the Faith sports teams participate as a group.**

****Teachers...your students like seeing the human and fun side of you!**

We know you can do something!

If you are interested in participating, pick up a form in the school office, fill out, and return it. Sign up for a day and time to show your act to the Talent Show committee for approval. The times and dates are as follows.

Thursday, August 25th 3:30-5:00

Friday, August 26th 3:30-5:00

Saturday, August 27th 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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operational policies and part of the educational environment. In the high school, we will no longer tolerate tardiness, dress code violations, cheating and lying, cell phone or technology abuse, and disrespect for those in authority. While these things are necessary for a school to run well and they are things that Christians should value anyway, the stakes are actually much higher. These skills are just as valuable as the content knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic.

Most employers can compensate if their employee needs some additional training in their field, but they cannot compensate for late, unfriendly, unethical, disinterested

employees. The United States cannot continue to lose these jobs to other countries because our citizens do not have basic life-skills. Even business owners in our community are lamenting that they cannot find employees who will simply come to work on time, come dressed appropriately, work hard and not misuse technology.

Therefore, please make sure you read the handbook revisions to how we will be treating cell-phone use, tardies to class, dress code violations, unethical student behavior and respect for teachers. If the students are not interested in doing these things because they are right, they need to do it so they can get and keep a job for their sake, the sake of their family, and even our local economy.

New Elementary Choir Grades 4-6

A new Elementary Choir will be formed this year for students in grades 4-6. This choir will actually learn to sing music in parts, and will have opportunities to sing for school events, the Christmas Concert, community events and may participate in outside choral events with students from other schools. We will also have a special t-shirt made for the choir! The class will meet in the afternoons from 2:30-3:05. Students must be able to match pitch to join. We will have our first meeting for those interested on Friday, Aug. 19 at 2:30. All students interested will go to Mrs. Callahan's classroom at that time.

Faith Christian School is a ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church of Anniston, AL. Its purpose is to give the youth of the church and the vicinity quality instruction in subjects usually taught in public schools, together with specific Bible instruction and Christian Standards for life. It is a board-operated school, accredited by SACS and a member of ACSI. The school participates in AHSAA and Calhoun County athletics. The pastor of FPC is Rev. Rick Searle. The Chairman of the Board is Dr. Boyce Callahan. The Headmaster of FCS is Mr. Ryan Todt.

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Luke 12:48b

Orientation night schedules

Monday-August 15th

6:00 pm-Orientation for 7th grade students
7:00 pm-Orientation for High School parents
(Handbooks, Locker numbers and Schedules will be handed out. At least one parent should be in attendance)

Tuesday-August 16th

6:00 pm-Orientation for ALL new parents
7:00 pm-Session 1 for Elementary parents
8:00 pm-Session 2 for Elementary parents
(Two sessions are provided for parents of multiple elementary students)

Faith Christian School

Education for
Today,
Tomorrow
and
Eternity

“He who unites himself with the LORD is one with Him in Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 6:17.

“OWN IT!”