



# The Lion's Tale

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## Thanksgiving Program

### *The First Thanksgiving*

First and second grade classes performed the annual Thanksgiving play entitled *The First Thanksgiving*. Students did an excellent job reenacting the thankfulness of the Pilgrims after enduring the hardships during the first hard winter, and their interaction with the Indians while they celebrated their gratefulness. Well done first and second grade!



## Priority Enrollment

### *Enrollment for existing students begins Jan. 1*

As a courtesy to our currently enrolled families, FCS offers the opportunity to apply for the 2017-2018 school year during the month of January. This allows you an opportunity to secure your student's placement and take advantage of the 25% discount on the registration fee. (Step Up students turn in award letter and no money is needed for enrollment.) This priority enrollment period will be offered from Wednesday, Jan. 4, through Wednesday, Feb. 1. After this time, any open slots will be given to new students who have successfully completed the application process.

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## A Note from the Principal

### *The love of Christ*

It is a privilege to teach children in their formative years about the love of Christ. I love to hear the little voices in chapel sing praises to the One who takes away the sin of the world. I know that they really get it. The faith of a child is so strong and nurturing that faith is something the staff at FCS takes very seriously.

Unfortunately, our children are exposed to things that we don't want them to see, but we just have no control over. I remember many times on family vacations going down the interstate hoping my precious little ones did not see a certain bill board or bumper sticker. However, some little eyes don't miss a thing and I found myself in some very precarious "teaching moments."

Sadly, not all inappropriate signage comes from worldly organizations. In human arrogance, some religious institutions teach false doctrine and hate. Remember the Pharisees in the Bible? Well, there are modern day Pharisees, and they are so bound by the rules and regulations of the "church," they seem to have missed the message of God's love. It breaks my heart when those who have been given the task of telling others that there is One that loves them more than life itself forget Eph. 3: 17b – 19, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." These words comfort my heart as I remember the many denominations, "the Lord's holy people," on the campus of our school teaching this truth of God's love.

In the words of Dr. Paul David Tripp, "You could do nothing more important than to wake up every morning of your life and remind yourself that the One who created and controls everything that exists has been made, by grace to be your Father. He thinks of you in pure and faithful fatherly love. He acts toward you with the giving, providing, instructing, patient, and forgiving love of a perfect father. He is always with you. His hand is always upon you. He never stops watching you. His heart is always for you. He is always at work accomplishing his plans for you and through you. He lifts your burdens and lightens your load. He is your God, your Savior, your Friend- your Father." (New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional)

That is what FCS believes and teaches.

Truth like this makes me wish we had a sign in the front yard.

## Operation Christmas Child

### *Shoe boxes are on their way!*

FCS students packed their boxes and sent them to the Samaritan's Purse to be distributed around the world. Students were so excited as they watched the stack of boxes grow. Thank you to everyone who participated in this wonderful mission project. We know these small gifts will make a huge impact!



## Stay in the Know...

### Calendar Events

- Friday, December 16, is Fabulous Friday!!! Students will enjoy a day away from the books and participate in some really cool Christmas activities. The staff at FCS works very hard to make this event live up to its name so please be sure to attend.
- Friday, December 16, is an early dismissal day beginning Christmas Break. Please note that this is where the calendar for FCS is different from Gulf County's. Dismissal times are as follows:  
Marvin Wing 11:00 A.M.  
Godfrey Hall 11:15 A.M.
- Christmas Holidays are Monday December 19, thru Tuesday, January 3. Enjoy a time of family and friends and most of all a Celebration of the Messiah.
- Students return to school Wednesday, January 4, at 8:00 A.M.
- January 11, is the end of the second quarter. Please make sure your star student has turned in all of his or her outstanding assignments.
- January 16, is Martin Luther King Day. There will be no school in observance of this holiday.
- Report Cards will go home on January 17.



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## Class Spotlight

### *K 5 Kindness Angel*

The K5 classroom has been visited by the Kindness Angel. Students received a letter from their Kindness Angel explaining how they will spread Christmas Cheer to others every day with small acts of kindness. Each day the class receives a note from their angel giving them a special kindness assignment.



## Attendance is Important

### *Come to school everyday*

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of graduating from high school. When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future. But when kids are absent for an average of just two days of school per month—even when the absences are excused—it can have a negative impact. These absences can affect kids as early as Kindergarten.

For example, young elementary school students who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind in reading. But when students are able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, which is when kids transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*, they are three to four times more likely to graduate high school and attend college, post-graduate, or professional development classes than their peers who struggle with reading.

<http://absencesaddup.org/importance-of-school-attendance/>

## Words of Wisdom

### **James 3:17**

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.



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