



# The Lion's Tale

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## 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.

## Oh My! Is That a Pie?

*Pie in the face*

Staff members were given a nice treat by students who met or exceeded fund raising goals for the Walk-a-thon. Each one was given an opportunity to put a pie in the face of a staff member. Check out our Facebook page to see more pictures of this entertaining event.



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## A Note from the Principal

*Historically Speaking*

Did you know that Julius Caesar, a Roman Emperor, was stabbed to death by his Senators so they could regain control of the Roman Empire? It is interesting to note that Caesar's closest friend Antony, and Caesar's adopted son Octavian shared power of the Empire after Caesar's demise. Once in power, Antony fell in love with Cleopatra and began to give parts of the Roman territory to her. Of course, this angered many Romans so in 31 B.C. (before the birth of Christ). Octavian and Antony fought a bloody battle off the coast of Greece in which Antony's fleet surrendered. Antony abandoned his fleet and he and Cleopatra escaped to Egypt where they committed suicide. Octavian conquered Egypt and returned to Rome as the undisputed ruler of this dominant empire.

Octavian had many titles, but the Bible calls him "Caesar Augustus." This should sound familiar, as this was the Roman Emperor that instituted the census that forced Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. History draws a line at this time because the birth of Christ begins *anno Domini* (A.D.) meaning "in the year of our Lord." Rome ruled the world at the time of Christ but by A.D. 500, the Empire had vanished.

After the birth of Christ, many other Roman Emperors ruled the vast empire. Caligula ruled for four years (A.D. 37 to 41) and is noted for going insane and selecting his favorite horse to be a member of the Roman Senate. It is rumored that Nero, emperor from A.D. 54 to 68, started a fire that burned over half the city of Rome. It is even said that he played his lyre while the city burned. He is also known as the first emperor to persecute Christians. Domitian who ruled from A.D. 81 to 96, demanded to be worshipped as a god. Constantine, who began his reign in 324, claimed to have seen a cross in the sky with the words "Conquer by this" written on it. He is remembered as the first Christian emperor of the Roman Empire and after many years of the persecution of Christians, he began to persecute in the name of Christianity.

History, from a Christian perspective is an important part of academics as well as an important part of life. George Orwell stated, "Whoever controls the past controls the future. Whoever controls the present controls the past." However, all of this seems dry to the average student when they are bombarded with a plethora of dates and places. On the other hand, a study of events and the people involved can be fascinating as drama unfolds in story after story. There is intrigue, murder, blackmail, romance, bravery, and inspiration in the stories passed down through the centuries. They entertain us, teach us, and give us courage to stand for our convictions. We cannot afford to be ignorant of those things that are past, but we must learn from past mistakes and triumphs to be blessed with a better tomorrow.

## Fabulous Friday!

### Great fun for all

FCS students enjoyed a fun filled day on Friday, December 16. Teachers and volunteers transformed the campus to a place of fun and excitement. Every student was able to experience different activities such as cookie decorating, singing, crafts, painting, and even some challenging gaming. (Ever try to open a Christmas present that was taped with packing tape all the while wearing oven mitts?)

Students left the campus for Christmas vacation smiling and looking forward to even more fun as the holidays officially began.



## Stay in the Know...

### Calendar Events

- Monday, January 9, is a very important PTO meeting regarding the 2016-2017 Italian Dinner and Auction. The meeting will be held in the school cafeteria at 5:30 P.M. This event is the largest fund raiser of the year and helps to keep tuition rates affordable. Your participation in this event is imperative so please make plans to attend.
- 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.
- Monday, December 16, is Martin Luther King Day. No School on this holiday.
- Tuesday, January 17, is Chapel. Mr. Kenny McFarland, the youth pastor at LABC will be speaking. Please wear chapel uniforms.
- Report cards go home on Tuesday, January 17. Please be sure your child is caught up and has turned in all assignments.
- January 26, is the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school!
- The Learning Fair Manual will be going home this week. If your star student is in the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, he or she will be required to take part in this project learning based event. Please read the manual carefully as there will not be much class time attributed to these assignments and every assignment can and will affect grades in three classes.

## Mission Emphasis

### Blue Skies Ministry

During every chapel service the students of FCS take up an offering, and each semester we choose a worthy cause to donate the offering money brought in by the students, and allow the students an opportunity to hear from that ministry. In the past, we have donated to the FL Baptist Children's Home, built houses in Guatemala, given to Operation Christmas Child, assisted financially to local needy families in our community, and many more.

This semester's mission emphasis will focus on **Blue Skies Ministry**.

The following is an excerpt from the Blue Skies Ministry website:

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family is impacted - parents grow weary; siblings take a "backseat"; finances are stretched; relationships become tense; faith and hope falter.

Blue Skies is a ministry that offers weeklong beach retreats to lift families above the clouds of childhood cancer.

Our mission is to bring the hope of Christ to families living through the challenges of pediatric cancer so that children who are sick will laugh and play and feel "normal" again; that siblings, who often compete with cancer, will feel cherished and get to have uninterrupted family fun; that moms and dads will grow strong and begin lifelong friendships with others on Kindred Journeys; and, most importantly, that everyone at Blue Skies will experience the love of our Heavenly Father.

These domestic mission trips are staffed by compassionate volunteers who share the love of Christ through caring for the families we serve.

Like so many, we pray for the day when there is no more childhood cancer, but, UNTIL THEN... there's Blue Skies.

<http://www.blueskiesministries.org/>

## Words of Wisdom

### Job 28:28

And he said to the human race, "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."



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