

THE MUSTARD SEED

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Faith Mennonite High School

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Teachers Attend Workshops

Thursday morning October 20 the school day was very different for the students and staff from Faith Mennonite High School. The students didn't start arriving around 8:15am. The teachers were not coming to school either, at least not to Faith. It was the much anticipated MACSA (Mid-Atlantic Christian School Association) teachers' convention.

This year the convention was held on the Campus of Lancaster Bible College. Each year the conference organizers select a theme and verse and this year was the theme was "stronger together" using the verse Psalm 133:1 "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity".

Both days started out with a general session with over 800 teachers and school staff present. Thursday morning after a time of singing we heard about what God is doing in schools around the world. Dr. Dan Egeler started out by quoting "Aslan is on the move" from

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. Dr. Egeler went on to make the case that God is moving around the world in Christian school. He told about a school in Northern Africa that started from one Christian man who began to 'home-school' his children. In a short time, a school was begun as more Christians wanted an alternative for their students. The school grew to several hundred. He told us how that school was rebuilding after extremists burned the school down in an effort to frighten them from operating a Christian based school.

On Friday there was an opening and closing general session for all attendees. The morning session was more technical in nature as Jay McTighe taught about the method of lesson preparation that starts at the end and works backwards. The afternoon session wrapped up the two days with John Stonestreet from the Chuck Colson Center. He reminded Christians that even in the perilous, dark times in which we live, we have a hope that the world cannot understand, but needs, both now and in the future.

Some highlights, besides Mrs. Kauffman winning the iPad mini door prize, as told by various teachers:

From one workshop, Mr. Fox recalls, its reported that 86% of youth group kids cannot explain how the Bible has any relevance to their lives. That's shocking! God has given us scripture and as Christians it should drive our agenda. It tells us what to think, how to live, and what to believe. The hard

part is that these truths are found in a context of ages past, but need to be applied and lived out in our context today. We need to be looking into God's Word and into God's world to figure out how the two connect.

Mr. Harrison was reminded that we teach to change lives. We Need to be more in tune with God and what He desires me to do in the classroom as we teach, and input into the lives of the students. We are not just teachers of academic

materials, but rather teachers of living souls.

Miss Janessa recalls from the Stonestreet session, a clear explanation on how our culture has experienced unprecedented growth in our craving for entertainment in the recent decades. Previous generations sought knowledge from books and looked to politicians and generals for opinions on pertinent issues in America; today's generation seeks knowledge from the first webpage that Google provides and

looks to celebrities for opinions on America's problems. We desire connection, but we are finding isolation. It certainly has made me think about entertainment and media! In response to those two things, I have been pondering how to avoid being sucked into the entertainment trap, and how to proactively allow media to benefit my life, instead of becoming enslaved to it.



Expansion Project

We are excited to announce a building project for FMH that will greatly benefit our school.

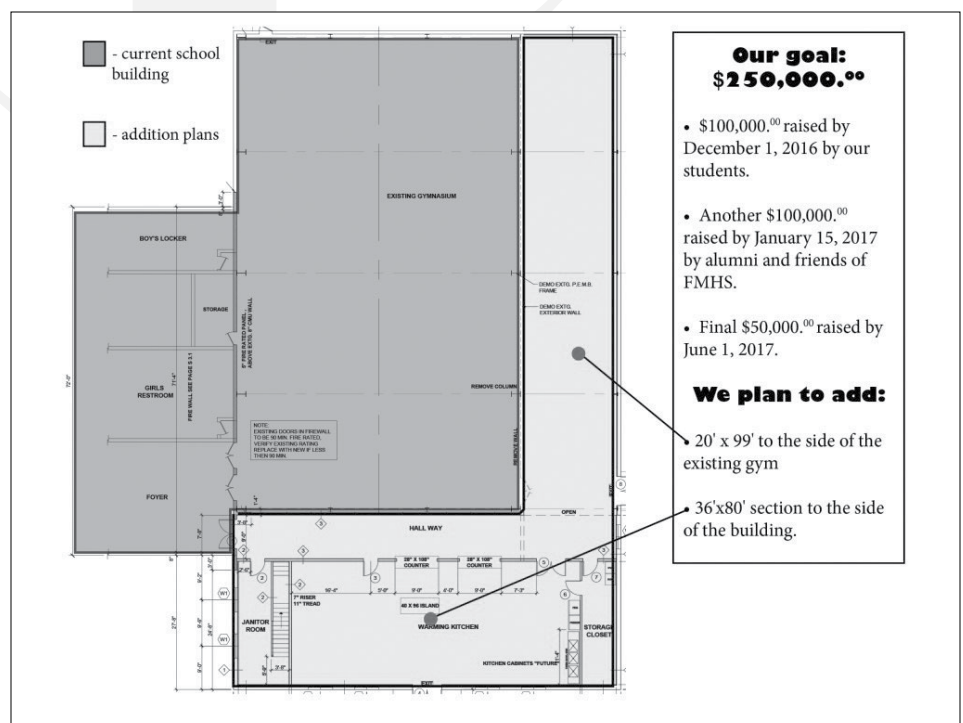
Our plans are to expand the current school building. We plan to build a kitchen adjacent to the gymnasium as well as expand the gym. This will bring about some very profitable changes such as additional classroom space.

Currently some classes are being held in the library, conference room, and even the kitchen. While we are thankful we have a place to hold these classes, this arrangement presents some challenges such as when hot lunch is being prepared, this disrupts classes that are held in the kitchen.

With this expansion project, we will also be able to provide more seating in our gym for larger events such as concerts, fund-raisers, and banquets. Having the kitchen and the gym beside each other will be a great benefit every time food needs to be served in the gymnasium. No longer will it need to be transported from the other side of the school building. This will also be good for those occasions when we rent the gym since they will no longer need access to "the other end" of the school.

Michael Stoltzfus and Dan King have been working with several others to draft a plan and submit the appropriate paperwork to make this project a reality. Calvin Lapp, Dave Stoltzfus and Marv Stoltzfus form the core of the fundraising committee. The goal is to raise \$200,000 for the project. The committee is committed to raising the balance in time to break ground during the summer of 2017.

An account has been setup with Anabaptist Foundation to handle all tax-deductable donations. You can find more information and track the progress on the school's website: www.FaithHighSchool.org.



Editorial

It is fair to say that most of us high school students are sleep deprived. Coming home once work or after school activities and sports finally finish, students have little time left to shower, eat, and then eventually begin their homework. This leads to students going to bed past midnight and has significant effects on them.

According to the Nationwide Children's Hospital, teenagers need around 9 hours of sleep each night. If you are not getting enough sleep at night, it is time to change your habits. You could be risking your overall health.

Sleep deprivation can have many different impacts. Some of these include a change in mood, behavior, and academic performance. A lot of us get frustrated and upset easily and it may be due to a lack of sleep. When teenagers do not get enough sleep they are more likely to engage in dangerous activities as well, and could be especially dangerous while driving.

Lack of sleep can cause problems with attention, memory, and creativity which are all important in school. Studies show that lack of sleep results in poor grades or falling asleep in school. So while you think that staying up all night will pay off because it will boost your grade, you are actually doing the total opposite.

The UCLA sleep center suggest that better hygiene and sleep routines that may help your issues with lack of sleep.

Take some time to read their article online at bit.ly/MSsleep

Students Speak Out

What were you excited and nervous about on your first day of highschool?

Freshman Duane Stoltzfus



I was excited about the social life at school and I was nervous about what the the upper classmen guys would be like and if they would be intimidating.

Senior Emily King

I was excited to get to know new people this year at school and hanging out with friends, and a little nervous about finding my place in the senior class and about adjusting to a new schedule.



Freshman Karen Smucker



My first day of school was not exciting. It was nerve wracking because I didn't know where to go or what I was doing.

Calendar

Nov	23	12:00 dismissal
	25-28	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec	8	Christmas Concert
	12	Jr/Sr Basketball game
	15	Jr/Sr Basketball game
	23	12:00 dismissal
	24-Jan 2	Christmas Vacation
Jan	10	PTF 7pm
	14	Alumni Tournament
	20	Invitational Tournament

Alumni Feature

Kelsey Beiler graduated in 2015 and has since then been stretched thin between work, college, and youth group. While Kelsey was still in high school, Mr. Ressler found a job for her as a data entry clerk at Esh Computer Center. This summer Kelsey decided to register at Harrisburg Area Community College for the fall semester. She is enrolled in fifteen credits ranging from an English Composition and Speech class to an Algebra class. At the same time, Kelsey has continued working twenty-seven

hours a week at Esh Computer Center.

Early this fall she was also voted as her youth groups secretary. Her responsibilities there are taking notes at youth committee meetings and putting events into the church bulletin.



Her studies at Faith prepared her not only for taking detailed notes, but also at keeping her life organized and making room for the important things while finding time for friends and family.

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