



# Patriot Press

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MAY 2019



## Wild at the Wilds!

### The seniors enjoy an enriching week at the Wilds Christian Camp

by Emma V, senior

The last few days of April through the first few days of May is a week that will remain a part of the seniors' lives forever.

Monday evening, April 29, the seniors arrived at the Wilds Christian Camp for a fun-filled week of senior camp. There were games, great messages, and good food. Some highlights of the week included the Fourth Falls hike, white-water rafting, as well as the various zip lines.

The chapels and services were all led by the Wilds staff. Willie preached, as well as some other well-known faces, such as Chris Anastos.

The fun time was also hilarious. The staff performed a tongue-twister and several silent routines, as well as a "1 semester of Spanish love song," and a knight-squire roasting match.

The seniors were asked what their favorite part or favorite memory was.

"The zip line was definitely my favorite part," said Nathan H. "If I had the chance, I would have definitely gone several more times on the zip line."

"One of my favorite memories was when a group of us were going tubing," said Connor D. "When we reached the water was area, there wasn't anyone there, so we thought we were in the clear, until Jonathan, Nathan, and Tyler jumped us out of nowhere, spraying us till we were drenched. It was the best surprise attack I had ever walked into."

"My favorite part about the Wilds was white water rafting," said Evin G. "Going in I was really nervous, but when I got in the raft, it was not as bad."

"My favorite part definitely had to be the land trolley and getting to meet and interact

The seniors took over one of the side sections as they listened each evening to the special speaker at the Wilds.

with new people and keeping in contact with them too!" said Jay M.

"I've got to say my favorite, but most challenging part, was Fourth Falls!" said Melanie T. "It was very hard and I did not want to do it, but everyone convinced me, and it ended up being really nice to see the falls! Overall, it was a great week!"

"Climbing Mount Everest (aka Fourth Falls) was my favorite part as well as jumping into the water when we got there," said Stef M.

"The Wilds was amazing! I liked how there weren't many other people there; it really opened up the camp," said Caleb D. "You rarely had to wait for anything—like human foosball, gazeeball, tubing, etc.—because there were so few people to wait for in the first place."

"I particularly enjoyed the things I've never done before at the Wilds, like the giant swing and the Zip," continued Caleb. "Going over Third Falls is truly breathtaking. Other things like the summit and the Fourth Falls hike were a bit more challenging, but more rewarding, as we made new memories together as a class. Aside from getting our GoPro dropped in the lake, the rest of the week was full of laughs and challenges from the Word of God. I'm excited to go to the Wilds again this summer."



The seniors who made it to the top of the wall are super proud of their efforts.



A giant group hug all around by the end of the week, and the seniors admit they will have a hard time saying good-bye.

photos by Mrs. Spatz



The handbell group plays "Spy Ring," complete with sunglasses and spy moves.

## The sound of spring

### Academy spring concert

by Liza F, junior

ODACS being over doesn't mean that FBTA has stopped participating in great music programs. As the school year comes to an end, FBTA held its final concert of the year. The concert consisted of many of everyone's favorite ODACS songs along with a few new songs.

The program began with the handbell choir presenting their pieces which placed second at national competition followed by a new song called "spy ring," which featured tunes from old spy movies. They donned sunglasses and tried out a few secret moves as they played the bells.

"I was really proud of the improvement we've made since the beginning of the year," said Mr. Probus, handbell director. "I wanted to play a song that would show off our skills while being really fun for the group and the audience. Mission accomplished."

"My hope is that this year will help to further grow the handbell program," continued Mr. Probus. "I plan on starting a secondary group next year and have already picked the songs for the entire year. They are all challenging songs that will continue to develop

their skills while having fun doing it!"

Junior high also had the opportunity to perform a few songs of their own and participate with the senior high orchestra. The program ended with the senior high choir performing a crowd favorite Latin-style song called "Ritmo," which involved some stomping and clapping to create rhythm.

"I thought the spring concert was an overwhelming success! My favorite song was for sure "Ritmo," said Haston, junior.

"It was very fun! I thoroughly enjoyed singing between Andrea and Liza," said Charity, freshman.

"It was really nice seeing everybody work together to have a great concert," said Daniel, junior.

"The concert was a lot of fun this year!" said Melanie, senior. "I cannot believe it's my last one, but all the songs we sang made it that much more memorable."

The whole program was a great opportunity to reflect on how the school grew musically since the beginning of the year. It's safe to say that everyone enjoyed the night while listening to some great music.



The junior high choir sings several beautiful songs during our spring concert.

## Patriot Press

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## Seniors in New York City

The senior class took the first half of their senior trip to New York City

by Julie U, senior

Every year the senior class at FBTA has the option of going to New York for their senior trip.

This year's class decided to watch the Broadway show *Aladdin*, take a visit to the New One World Trade Center and the Freedom Tower, ride the Staten Island Ferry, walk around Times Square, and even take a six-mile bike ride around Central Park.

"I absolutely loved going to New York this year for our senior trip!" said Melanie. "I was really excited for the opportunity to watch *Aladdin* again, and it was even more fun watching it with my class."

Half of the class also chose to ride bikes around Central Park. It ended up being over six-miles, and for some even longer because they got lost!

"It was definitely a scary thought to bike for that long, but I couldn't be happier that I did it," said Stefanie. "It was such a great bonding time, and I even felt very accomplished afterwards."

The seniors had the amazing experience of staying overnight in a church in Brooklyn as well.

"The church was definitely my favorite part!" said Sarah. "I loved all the times we sang and played the piano in the auditorium. I'm so glad I had such a great group of people to enjoy this trip with."

Overall, the trip was a great experience for the senior class. The closer bonds and the great memories were just a few of the many reasons that made this trip so memorable.

## So much preparation! So little time!

Senioritis strikes the graduates and creates a slow-moving pace for their special event

by Caleb P, sophomore

The FBTA graduates of 2019 will receive their diplomas on May 31. Although this might sound like it is coming quickly, the graduates must prepare diligently and early for the day of graduation.

For the students, the word "early" might be the day before the ceremony. A lot of exams, preparation for college, and more creates a slow pace for the graduates.

"It's been pretty slow ... I still haven't finished filling out my information on where I was going and what I am majoring in," said Connor, senior.

"Honestly, I'm just winging this," said Cindy, senior, with a laugh.

In some cases, some of the other seniors have their special day planned out to the point where they even have plans for those "scrutinizing details."

"I have already prepared the tablecloths on my graduation table. Everything that I need on my table is ready," said Hart, senior, energetically. "We just need to practice, and everything is just ready, and I can't wait for this moment!"

Although senioritis might have infected some seniors, there is always an early time to prepare for the graduation. The "early time" is now.

Graduation is Friday night, May 31, at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to come and congratulate the seniors on their achievement!



photos by  
Jenneth Dyck,  
FBTA alumni

## The night of nights

Jr./Sr. banquet dinner

by Alyssa R, junior

For the annual Teen Banquet on May 24, the high schoolers visited Texas de Brazil and went on a boat ride around D.C. later that same evening.

All the high school girls and guys got ready for the annual Jr./Sr. banquet. The girls wore formal dresses, and the guys got to show off their new suits and matching ties. It is a nice way to reflect on the past year and recognize the seniors as they are about to depart from high school.

"I loved the food and had a great time on the boat. I liked being with my friends and saying goodbye to the seniors," said Andrea, junior. "I'm also glad I brought an extra

pair of shoes with me to change into later at night.

"I was ecstatic with the food choice this year. It was so delectable and the boat ride made the night even better," said Julie, senior. "I had such a fun night being around the closest people dear to my heart all night long."

"The food at Texas de Brazil was excellent. I ate so much food that I had never eaten before," said Daniel, junior. "I also wore a new suit that I was complimented on a lot. I had a fabulous night hanging out with my favorite people. I will never forget it."

Recognizing and getting to spend extra time with the seniors right before they leave is always a night worth remembering.



## Making a joyful noise

The BJU brass group performs in chapel

by Nathan H, senior

Chapel in the auditorium always means there's going to be some sort of special event, and this time was no different.

Students eagerly made their way to the auditorium wondering what was going to happen. The brass instrumental band from Bob Jones University performed a variety of pieces, from "Mary had a Little Lamb" to brass concertos and everything in between.

Part of the way through their performance, the band gave a brief lesson on music and brass instruments which even included getting students involved. Student body president, Hart, senior, was one of the stu-

dents that got to participate in the lesson.

"It was interesting to say the least," said Hart.

The band leader concluded the chapel with a brief message about music and about using your gifts for God. It was a different and unique experience for the students at FBTA.

"It was a different chapel," commented Ethan, sophomore, "definitely not what I'm used to in chapel."

Overall, the students enjoyed the change of pace, and gained some interesting musical information along the way.



# A Mother's Day to remember

by Sri Shakti, freshman

A mother's love is one of the most important things in a child's life. Some earliest memories are often of a mother's kisses or the sound of her soft voice.

It goes without saying, that the K4 students were elated to show their mothers how much they appreciate them at their Mother's Day Brunch on Friday, May 10.

The K4 sang a song and their teachers made a video about why they love their mommies. Some of the children said that they loved their mommies because they make them yummy food or because they cuddle with them.



Students eagerly await the arrival of their mothers.

"I think the moms really enjoyed having the time to spend with their children," said Mrs. Vasquez, preschool supervisor.

Even though most of the K4 students have only been around for four years, they already understand that their mothers love them more than anything and are raising them to be the little children that God would have them to be.

Parents admire all of the beautiful decorations around the room created by their children.



## Musicals and missionaries

### 4th-6th graders put on a missions play

by Kiersten G, sophomore

The elementary students put on a spring play which was themed around mission's week on Friday, May 3. Ms. Koechig, Ms. Bowers, and Mrs. Probus all worked diligently to help the children prepare to put on the best show they could.

"The play was a lot of fun! I was really nervous and I was worried something might go wrong, but it turned out great!" commented Corbin, 6th grade.

The play was called "Tied Down," and it told the story of Emma, played by Zoe, being called to the mission field, but she struggles with whether it was worth leaving her life at home. It ends with the real-life missionary family, the Kellys, accompanying Emma on the mission field in Indonesia.

The children began rehearsing in January and worked hard up until the day of the play. May 3 was a very busy day for them. They rehearsed up until 3 o'clock and then went through hair and makeup teams made up of volunteering moms and high-schoolers.

"Getting ready was one of my favorite parts. I had to rush around to get my hair

and makeup done in time but it was so much fun!" said Jenna, 6th grade.

The play went smoothly, and it was a great opportunity for the elementary schoolers to demonstrate their talents. "Tied Down" was a touching and convicting story showing how important it is to share the Gospel with our lost world.

"We hoped everyone enjoyed it because we put a lot of work into it and we hoped that people accepted Christ as their Savior," said Hanna, 4th grader.



Students memorized their lines and worked on their acting scenes.



Students show off their Easter "baskets" after the hunt.

## Easter egg hunt

### A day full of surprises

by Ava, sophomore

Easter is one of the most important stories in the Bible. The preschoolers were able to learn more about this day while doing fun activities. The teachers were able to incorporate the story of Jesus' resurrection into simple activities.

Mrs. Bradford had her K4 class start with an edible activity that captured the scene of the empty tomb using donuts. After learning more about what they were celebrating, the students ran to the playground to find eggs. Plastic eggs were hidden near the opening of the slide, by the swings, or partially under the mulch.

Mrs. Acosta had stations that the children would rotate through. The favorite station was decorating and eating cookies. After finishing the rotation, the students went outside to write on the sidewalk with chalk.

When they were ready to move on from that activity, the teachers were one step ahead with a relay race. The two teams raced through obstacles to determine the winner of the race.

"I liked making the donut scene, because afterward we got to eat the donuts," said Ella, K4.



"My favorite part of the day was the relay race, because my team won. I also liked the sidewalk chalk, because I like to draw," said Jet, K4.

"After I got home, I opened all of the eggs and ate some of my chocolates. I was allowed to eat four pieces of candy in after school care," said Paul, K3.

## Elementary field day

by Mrs. Dyck, Advisor

For the ODACS Elementary Field Day on May 7, our 4th through 6th graders enjoyed a beautiful day of competition.

Students from four ODACS schools competed for the Field Day championship, with Heritage coming in 1st, Fairfax 2nd, and Keystone 3rd.

Caleb, 6th grade, finished 1st in all three of his categories: 200 meter race, softball throw, and standing broad jump.

FBTA held their own Field Day on May 29, so that all elementary students could enjoy a "less intense" competition with more students being able to participate.

Thank you to all of the teachers, staff, and volunteers who came out to make our field days a success. Congratulations, students!



## Murder on the Orient Express

by Peter V, sophomore

On Friday, May 10, Mrs. Darby's speech class put on a performance of "Murder on the Orient Express," full of suspense, drama, and mystery.

Johnathan and Liddy were the detectives in this drama. The other stars of this production were the suspects. This drama in particular is full of mystery and was a great selection for the actors. In the end, the people involved are discovered but are found out in more or less a roundabout way.



"It was an exciting experience, and I think that it impacted everyone in a positive way," said Liddy, 8th grade.

"It was a fun experience helping to serve refreshments to Mr. Vasquez," said John, junior.

"So thankful to Mrs. Darby for all the hard work that she put into it for us," said Jiana, 8th grade. "She made it so much more enjoyable."

# Our goal is stopping yours

## Girls' 2019 soccer

by Amy F, freshman

This soccer season, the girls' team had eleven games scheduled, more than any amount that was scheduled before. With directors arranging constant ODACS practices during the beginning of soccer, the team knew this season would not be easy and had to be earned through hard work and dedication. After a rocky start, practices and games became more tiring but were still upheld by coaches and FBTA students.

"I loved how encouraging all the girls on the team were during every game that we had. It really helped me play my hardest every time I was on the field," said Julie, senior.

Mrs. Fernandez, coach, and Miss Wendal, assistant coach, were constantly on the girls teaching and improving them with new skills and tricks played throughout the field. Coach Mark, a trained coach brought in during the season by Mrs. Fernandez, was disciplinary and strict, helping the girls play as a team. The girls steadily saw improvement



Stef Menacho, senior, dribbles around her opponents with apparent ease. photo by Mrs. Dyck, advisor

through coaching.

"I can definitely tell that the team has grown and improved since the beginning of the season," said Ashley, sophomore.

Once all ODACS practices and games ended, the girls became even more dedicated to the team. They learned to practice hard and play smart, no matter what opponent they were up against. Younger girls were especially grateful for extra games to play with the new addition of a JV team. Overall, the girls' soccer team tremendously improved and progressed playing as a team.

"Even if we weren't undefeated like last year, we still pushed until the end," said Carol, 7th grade.

# A year in review

## FBTA receives 2019 yearbooks

by Mrs. Dyck, yearbook advisor

Receiving the FBTA yearbooks and attending the dedication ceremony signals that the end of the year is near.

On May 23, a 15-minute video was presented to the entire student body and faculty to recount the year-in-review. The yearbook staff searched through thousands of photos from the year to highlight our favorite memories.

After the slideshow presentation, Hart, yearbook editor, announced that Mrs. Page would be our 2019 yearbook dedicatee.

Mrs. Page taught the senior class when she first began teaching at FBTA and the seniors were in 5th grade. They were happy to have her teach them again when she moved out of elementary and became the core of our senior high math department, teaching upper-level physics and pre-calculus.

Mrs. Page's husband, son, and daughter were able to be there that day to see her receive her dedication yearbook.

This year was especially memorable because for the first time in FBTA history, our yearbook team earned the Jostens National



Program of Excellence Award. Our school received a banner and plaque to signify excellent yearbook coverage, meeting deadlines, and holding an exciting distribution event. The yearbook team was happily surprised and honored by the announcement.

The cover has been unofficially voted as the "coolest cover" in the history of FBTA yearbooks, with a shimmery blue and purple shine and halographic lettering. The size of the yearbook has also increased slightly, because Jostens has discontinued the size that FBTA has been printing for 30 years.

"It will stick up a little taller on the shelves," said Mrs. Dyck, advisor, "but it's not a huge difference. Besides, it helps it stand out."

# Thank you to our staff

by Mrs. Dyck, advisor

Thank you to the journalism class for all of the hard work they have done on the yearbook and newspaper this year. Even those who didn't think they enjoyed writing have improved so much, and the yearbook continues to get better every year.

I know the deadlines were tough, and the pressure during ODACS was intense, but you all produced a great product. I appreciate the perseverance, and I know our readers do as well. Have a great summer!

# Donate your used books to FBTA!

by Mrs. Dyck, advisor

FBTA is collecting book donations throughout the summer to help raise money for our library. If you have any books to donate, please bring them in!

Books that can be used will be processed into our library, and duplications or other books that are not sold at the sale are able to be traded in for book credit toward purchasing books that are needed.

Every little bit helps! Thank you for your donations!

# A final cheer

## Students celebrate the close of the sports seasons with the annual sports banquet

by Haston H, junior

A buzz of chatter filled the room as the athletes of the school gathered in groups to eagerly discuss the greatly anticipated sports awards, and who would win the ultimate award, the Athletic Director's Award.

The dinner, which was cooked by resident chef, Mrs. Darby, consisted of two selections of freshly-tossed salads, sizzling grilled hot dogs, baked beans, and baked macaroni and cheese. After being filled to the brim with food, the most anticipated part of the night began.

The awards started off with the undefeated JV girls' volleyball team and the Varsity girls volleyball team. Coach Kim talked about the highlights of the volleyball season. Julie was awarded the Player's Choice Award and Sarah was awarded the Coach's Award.

From there it moved on to the JV guys soccer team and the varsity guys soccer team. Coach Bradford made sure to recognize the outstanding soccer players this year—one of these being John, who scored 25 goals this soccer season, earning both the Player's Choice Award and the Coach's Award.

After the fall sports were wrapped up, we were all treated to a light dessert before moving on to the winter and spring sport sections.

After the JV basketball teams were honored, it was time for the varsity basketball teams. Coach Spatz got up to talk about the girl's season and what it was like as a first year coach. Cindy was given the honored Coach's Award and the Player's Choice Award for dedication to the team, amazing playing, and outstanding sportsmanship.

Coach Page gave some remarks on the varsity guy's basketball season. Jonathan was awarded Player's Choice for his unending commitment to his team and show of leadership on the court, and Connor was awarded the Coach's Award.

Coach Briggs discussed the varsity girls Soccer team, giving both Emma and Julie the Coach's Award.

It was now time for the most anticipated part of the evening. Who would receive the Athletic Director's Award? The seniors anxiously looked around the gym at each other as



Cindy Yopez, senior; Estefania Menacho, senior; Sarah Hughes, senior; and Jayden Tart, sophomore pose with their coveted sports awards.

Mr. Bradford began to announce the winner. The name was called—it was Jonathan, and the crowd burst into applause!

"I was truly shocked and honored that this award was given to me," said Jonathan, senior. "I was not expecting this at all, but I am so thankful to all of my coaches and my parents for allowing me the opportunity to play the sports I love."

"I thought it was great to recognize the accomplishments the sports teams have achieved this year," said Jordan, junior.

Many were excited and pumped for the next year's sports seasons.

"I can't wait to win the championship in soccer—we were so close this year," said Daniel, junior.

"This year's sports banquet was a lot of fun, but it was mixed with the sadness of it being our last one together," said Melanie, senior.

The 2018-2019 Sports Banquet was truly a momentous occasion this year, but especially for our seniors.

We will miss you next year seniors!

# Congratulations!

## Student Council and Class Reps for 2019-2020

Jameson, President  
Daniel, Vice President  
Liza, Secretary  
Julia, Treasurer

Haston, 12th Grade Rep  
Peter, 11th Grade Rep  
Amy, 10th Grade Rep  
David, 9th Grade Rep  
Ian, 8th Grade Rep  
Ben, 7th Grade Rep



The journalism class is a "selected- elective" class. If you are interested in signing up for the yearbook or newspaper staff next school year, please talk to the school office or Mrs. Dyck and fill out an application for consideration.