



Patriot Press

February, 2010



Cameron and Collin shovelling snow in Woodbridge.

The Infamous Blizzard of 2010

by Cameron, Junior

“Good morning this is Mr. Kidd, I would like to inform you that school is cancelled today due to the impending snowstorm.”

For seven mornings we received this much-anticipated phone call from the administration. The snowstorm that was supposed to arrive mid-February was predicted to be the largest storm that Virginia has encountered in over one hundred years! The deluge of snow was stupefying with a total of thirty-two inches average in the northern Virginia area.

Abiding by the stereotype of high school students, Camille, freshman, said, “It was fun for the first few days, then I started missing everyone and it got kind of boring, but it was a good chance to catch up on sleep and homework.”

No one could predict that we would miss so much school. Now behind in both lessons and grades, teachers are accelerating their work to make up for lost time.

The biggest obstacle to Chris, freshman, was the shovelling. Shovelling that much snow was very tiring and extensive work that no one would enjoy.

“The shovelling was a pain picking it all up, but fun skipping school,” he said.

Some hate shovelling, some missed friends, but some missed the summertime, as was the case of Liz, sophomore.

“I wonder how the clouds can accumulate that much snow and it made me miss summer, oh, so much more!” she said.

No matter what your attitude towards the vast quantities of snow, this storm will forever be engraved in our memories for years to come.

What did YOU do during the blizzard?

“Have Hot Choklet,” Ashley (1st grade)

“Roast stuff in the fireplace,” Marcus (4th grade)

“I jumped off of my roof into the snow,” Daniel (6th grade)

“Nothing but watch TV and my little brother getting frostbite,” Bailey (7th grade)

“My sisters and I went around throwing snowballs at people’s windows,” Spencer (freshman)

“Just seeing snow!! Seeing the beautiful white stuff falling from the sky,” Miss Cuellar (3rd grade teacher)

“Well, I shoveled snow but also played in the snow. I was doing flips, face plants, spins, and other jumps into the snow off of a hill. I also partly made a snow house — not an igloo, a snow house — which I still have to finish,” Adam (freshman)

“I watched TV, read books and played in the snow. My favorite memory by far was my quest to make it to Chiptole,” Kimberly (sophomore)

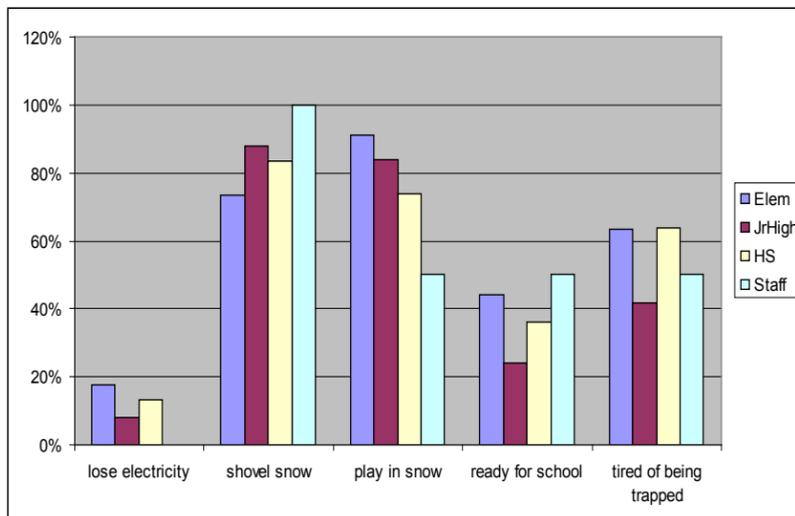
“Just the amount we received ... the most I had ever seen in my entire life!” Mr. Niggel (9th grade homeroom)

“I made a new friend ... Martha Stewart,” Andria (senior)

“Pushed my mom in the snow,” Cameron (junior)

“Night sledding at neighbor’s house,” Courtney (K5)

“During the previous chances of snow, I kept praying that school would have at least a two-hour delay, but we still always had a whole day of school. But I didn’t realize God was saying, ‘Wait for it, wait for it...’ **WOMP!** School’s closed down for a week! Thanks, God!” Jenneth (7th grade)



Haiti

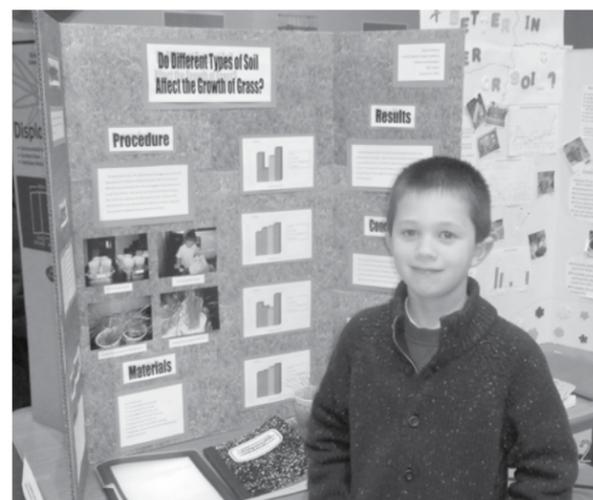
by Zachary, Junior

Only a little more than a month ago, on Jan. 12, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the impecunious island-nation of Haiti, crumbling its feeble infrastructure and leaving a myriad of people dead or buried in rubble.

Soon after the quake, a collection totaling \$106.91 was taken up from the students and teachers at Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy.

“It reiterates one of the goals at the Academy, to get students personally involved in missions. Even though students may not be on the mission field, this is a tangible way for them to get involved,” Mr. Kidd said. The money assisted the Fitzsimmons, Fairfax Baptist Temple’s missionaries to Haiti since April 1988.

Philippians 4:17 says, “Not that I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” Thank you from the Fitzsimmons and the Haitians to you who contributed a donation, and continue to pray that God will use your gift through this catastrophe for His glory and for the furtherance of His Gospel.



Ricky shows off his science fair project.

It’s Scientific!

by Cameron, Junior

The Science Fair. One of the most dreaded times of the year by both teachers and students because of its difficult and time-consuming nature.

All students in the fifth, sixth, eighth, and tenth grades were required to do a biological or physical experiment this year.

In spite of all the pessimism, there was a hint of optimism in David’s opinion.

“I felt like I knew what was expected from me, so I could be more sure about how to go about doing my project,” he said.

Now if the projects seemed hard enough, imagine what it would be like to grade them, such was the case of Mr. Niggel. He had to grade over 60 science fair projects!

He was staked out in the gym for about two days of non-stop grading.

As a newcomer to the science fair, Gabby, 5th grade, found it a challenge, but the hours spent with her siblings and parents brought them all closer together to complete the task.

The many hours spent in preparation, experimentation, and researching are finally over for most, and many can breathe a sigh of relief about that.

In the grim anticipation of the future, there is a glint of hope in the mind of Cassie.

“It was ok, although normally I absolutely HATE it, this year it was a lot easier!” she said.

It is a fact that junior and senior high years’ science fair projects are necessary, but in this case, perhaps the greatest experiences learned are science and patience.



Ode to Apolo

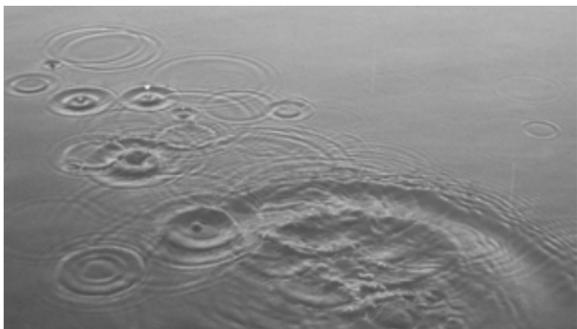
by Andria, Senior

In a world of Flying Tomatoes and speeding Apolos, the 2010 Winter Olympics allow students to experience the impossible . . . while finishing homework. Between analyzing rhyme schemes and graphing parabolas, many try to squeeze in a chance to watch favorite Apolo Anton Ohno glide on the ice, specifically the sophomore girls.

With an impressive collection of gleaming medals and his signature goatee, FBT's own Catherine and Carrie have written an ode to the very handsome speed skater:

“A to the P to the O to the L to the O,
to the A to the N-T-O-N,
O to the H to the N to the O,
Come on everybody! Grab your skates and let's go!”

During the Olympics, FBTA enjoyed cheering for Apolo Ohno and the rest of Team USA!



Of Rain and Renewal

by Oliver, Senior

Winner of the Sr. English Class Sonnet Contest

Wet days always seem to bring much sorrow.
The tears of God upon the sad world drop.
Falling, then splishing, splashing, puddling up.
One wishes for a happier morrow.
So he hurls a mighty thund'rous arrow
To bring down in disgrace some proud tree top;
Then rain clouds part and those bitter drops stop.
A soul remembers that day long ago:
The day our Savior's tear drops grew.
His death loudly rent the temple veil clean
In two. Now, man forever may abound.
So that, with dismal rain comes life anew
Turning a useless desert lush and green.
Where once was gloom, eternal joy is found.

Winter Break Part Two

by Meghan, Senior

While some families like the Dansereaus fled the impending February blizzard, others of us weren't so lucky. Monstrous snowmen, forts, and caves became some of the more popular activities during this epic snowstorm, yet others of us came up with our own twist on entertainment over break.

Robert, junior, was one of these people. Instead of the typical rotund snowman nestled in the snow, he and a few friends schemed to make a snowman out of ice.

“We were bored on this particular night and decided to do something out of the ordinary,” he said.

They had the whole process down to an art. There were designated lifters and lookouts, with the latter having a critical role to this operation. The lookouts, if you were wondering, watched for cars since these icemen were built in a new venue: the street.

Each iceman consisted of four or five blocks of ice precariously balanced on each other and presented quite the obstacle course for the oncoming vehicles. Robert and his crew would leap for cover whenever the lookouts saw a car about to drive down their street, and watch with amusement as the driver maneuvered through the course. However, these icemen would not last. The final car to pass through their neighborhood became fed up with this intrusion and the drivers took the poor icemen apart.

“It was fun while it lasted,” Robert said.

Thus ends the story of Robert's unique snowmen ... until another snowstorm.

Senior State Government Day: Soaking It All In

by Raquel, Senior

We seniors began our morning at what seemed an ungodly hour. All fifteen of us arrived promptly at 6 A.M. on Jan. 25, to board the cold bus. Thankfully, though, the combination of the cold bus and the dreary, rainy weather did not dampen our spirits.

Upon arriving at our lovely state capital in Richmond, we were greeted by Mr. Zacharias, the executive director of ODACS. The morning was spent in discussion with some of our officials including Miss Wiebe, a member of FBT, to raise awareness about the necessity of Christians in state and national government.

“It gave me a new perspective on state government because I saw it in action with my own eyes,” said David, president of our own student government. The rest of the day was spent in government sessions addressing environmental and educational issues.

We were very thankful for our officials who put in so much time and prayer for our government. Crystabel is especially thankful that government is *not* God's calling for her life.

All of us soaked in a ton of information as well as a few raindrops. This visit served as a great reminder to pray for the Christians in government.

1 Timothy 2:1-2, “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”



Rest in Peace

by Taylor, Junior

The boys' varsity basketball season has officially been laid to rest. Although the season did not go as planned, they still finished the season strong by winning two of their last four games. During the season they had the opportunity to attend the Faith Invitational.

“Even though we lost both games, we had a good time and it was a good learning experience,” said David, senior.

They had a disappointing run, but they are looking forward to becoming a stronger team next year.

ODACS Preachers

by Robert, Junior

“How do they practice?” is maybe a question you've thought of when you heard about the ODACS preachers.

Well, it's not really a practice as much as it is a revision. Bro. Barr works with all the guys in the preaching category of ODACS once a week to make the sermon better.

“I am glad Bro. Barr takes the time to meet with us to help us on our messages,” said Nate, who is in level three expository preaching.

Bro. Barr also suggests different passages and illustrations, so it really gets the preacher thinking on what he should and should not do. The great thing about the preaching category is that the preacher writes down what he feels like God wants and doesn't want him to say.

“I feel like the guys in the preaching category are being used by God,” said Taylor, who is preaching in the topical, level three category.

“Training the guys to preach God's Word is one of the greatest things about being a youth pastor,” said Bro. Barr.

Every year we have several preachers make it to state and a few have gone to nationals. Thank you Bro. Barr for all the hard work you put into the preachers' sermons and helping them out!

A Very Naylor Vow Renewal

Our very own Mrs. Naylor (6th grade teacher) and her husband Joe renewed their wedding vows at FBT on Friday, Feb. 12.

It was during the week of the Washington, D.C. blizzard, but nothing was going to deter the ceremony, and a good-sized crowd braved the elements to make sure they could witness the event.

With his usual good-natured humor, Mr. Naylor, a police officer, capped off the ceremony by handcuffing himself to his wife to make extra sure they were once again bonded for life.



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<i>Nate</i>	<i>Banna</i>	<i>Cameron</i>	<i>Sina</i>
<i>Raquel</i>	<i>Brianna</i>	<i>Meghan</i>	<i>Catherine</i>
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Josh</i>	<i>Carrie</i>	<i>Alex</i>
<i>Zachary</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Gretchen</i>	<i>Andria</i>
<i>Jackie</i>	<i>Camille</i>	<i>Oliver</i>	<i>Crystabel</i>

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