

The Daily Walk in a Journey We All Take

Pam Tieszen

The school year is nearly over, spring is here and summer is around the corner. Spring comes with mixed emotions: track season is finally here and the spirit of competition begins anew, but we also anticipate the loss of the Class of 2009 and saying goodbye to remaining students and staff until next fall. While I am anxious for summer and another set of activities, I am well aware of how quiet the buildings become over summer. It becomes a time to pause and reflect.

At the annual Freeman Academy Steps Forward Banquet this spring, I spoke about “the walk versus the talk” at Freeman Academy. Bible classes meet daily and we worship in chapel twice a week. Students are required to memorize long passages and complete Bible readings as assigned by Dennis Schrock, Bible teacher. While these assignments are essential to our foundation, there are daily student experiences that also have a profound impact.

Many of our exchange students hear about Christianity and Mennonites and read a Bible for the first time at Freeman Academy. Students, both international and local, ask questions after hearing a chapel speaker or a lecture in class. The daily walk takes place when students are in conversation with teachers, coaches and parents later on a drive, around a dinner table or at social gatherings. These discussions occur frequently. I heard them on choir tour and I hear examples from teachers when they have to rearrange lesson plans because a speaker in chapel touched on a subject that needed attention during the next class period. Academics get set aside to address questions. The seeds have been planted and begin to sprout. We may not see the mature plant at graduation, but down the path there is growth, as we all experience growth in our journeys. What a privilege to have a school that can stop to address the growth in the journey.

As I pause and reflect, planted seeds are growing in our environment at Freeman Academy. We have parents, grandparents and constituents who aid in the growth of these seeds. It takes a village to provide nurturing. The village today is a global village and we invite you to join us. We covet your prayers for the growth of the seeds planted.

As we close the 2008-09 financial year on June 30, we ask you to prayerfully consider the importance of nurturing the seeds planted here. Your gifts will support a strong finish for the year ending and allow us to begin the “walk” anew, providing student financial aid, campus improvements, and operating expenses.

**Student
Tuition
AND**

Board of Directors'
Corner

Financial Assistance

Myles Brockmueller—Board Chairperson

Tuition – Parents cringe at the thought of paying it. Board members and administration want more of it to support and expand educational programs.

Did you know that it costs over \$10,000 to educate a student at Freeman Academy? The greatest of these costs are payroll expenses. We have a very dedicated, hardworking group of employees. How many small schools have a faculty with the experience and level of education that ours possess?

Recently, the Board of Directors reviewed and set the tuition rates for the 2009-10 school year. Generally, tuition rates go up each year as the costs of operating the school increase. Tuition rates will be increasing 3-5% for next year (sorry, parents).

Tuition income covers less than half of the costs associated with educating a student. So where do we get the rest of the money? It comes from all of us. When we generously give of our time and resources to the fund-raising activities of the school, we are making Christian education affordable to the families that desire to send their children to Freeman Academy.

Ideally, tuition income would cover most of our educational costs. Fund-raising income could be used exclusively to develop new programs and make campus improvements. Increasing enrollment would dramatically increase our operating income while only marginally increasing our expenses. We need to increase our enrollment. If you know of a family that is interested in Christian education, please contact Freeman Academy.

Ribs at the Ranch

Ribfest 2009!

Join us for the second annual ribfest on the Pioneer Hall parking lot Saturday, June 27!



Ethan Schmeichel with Matilda (the pig) and Ted Hofer, winner of the 2008 Kiss the Pig Contest.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Waltner, Freeman Courier

The event will be bigger and better than last year with various activities planned throughout the day. Participate in a Fun Run/Walk through the Prairie Arboretum or bring a team of athletes (alumni teams welcome!) to play in a “3 on 3” basketball tourney. Enter a car in the car show by contacting Don Kaufman, 605-460-0042 or 605-925-7345. Various children’s activities are planned from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Area specialty chefs will compete for prizes in a barbecue rib “cook-off” contest in the Pioneer Hall parking lot. The public is invited to observe the chefs in action anytime throughout the afternoon! Official judging will take place in the late afternoon, with meals served to the public from 4:30-9:00 p.m. Ribs, 1919 keg root beer, lemonade, ice tea, homemade ice cream, and other side dishes will be sold ala carte.

Enjoy a wide variety of musical entertainment throughout the afternoon and evening – Collin Kleinsasser spinning “discs” from the 60’s and 70’s, Ben Harder’s Bluegrass Band, Freeman Academy Alumni aka “The Church Road Bandits,” and other local vocal groups featuring gospel and folk music.

Be sure to witness our “Kiss the Pig” contest announcement! During the 2 weeks prior to Ribs at the Ranch, anyone frequenting Freeman businesses or banks will have the opportunity to “vote” for their favorite candidate by placing coins or cash into designated jars! The contestant who has accumulated the most money, to be donated to the Freeman Community Foundation, will be the victor. The lucky winner of our “Kiss the Pig” contest will be named at 8:30 p.m. and will meet his/her pig of the evening!

Everyone is invited for a summer evening of succulent foods and entertainment! Proceeds from Ribs at the Ranch will go to the Sterling Hall Building Fund. For more information or to register as a cooking contestant, contact Vernetta Waltner, 605-321-7351 or vwaltner@freemanacademy.org. Entry forms and contest rules are also available on the school website: www.freemanacademy.org.