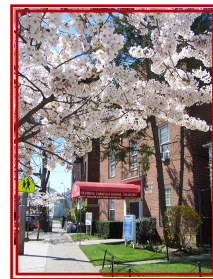




Flushing Christian School Newsletter

Fall 2022

Vol. 90



Chantal Nelson
Head of School

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A Message from the Head of School

*"Do not be deceived:
'Evil company corrupts good habits.'
1 Corinthians 15:33*

You are an average of your five closest friends. Take the character traits of the five people with whom you spend the most time, mix them together, and you will begin to recognize yourself. Our relationships and, more broadly, our company greatly impact us.

The Latin root for *company* gives a helpful illustration. Combining the words for "together" and "bread," it references the era of open-air markets where merchants would swap stories and conduct business over a shared meal. The pattern continues today.

As in ancient times, we tend to surround ourselves with the familiar, giving time and space to the people and practices with which we are most comfortable. Our routine company begins to grow more and more familiar, exerting more and more influence. This is a good thing; God designed us to function this way as social and impressionable beings. However, this includes more than just in-person interactions.

This school year, our staff has been reading and discussing *The Wisdom Pyramid* by Brett McCracken. This book study has caused me to evaluate my use of technology and assess whether I have been forming healthy habits or bad habits through its constant use. Whether I'm on social media or seeking entertainment, I've fallen into the trap of keeping company with my devices more than with face-to-face interactions, particularly when eating alone. This has caused me to ask the question, "Who is my closest company?"

That question must be asked of our society at large. I wonder if the expansive reach of social media and the barrage of perpetual "news" has caused us as a society to keep company with false ideologies. Perhaps believers are influenced to act based on feeling, to make impulsive judgments and snap decisions without deep, critical thinking. We wouldn't be the first believers to experience this pressure.

Paul warns the Corinthians against "evil company" in relation to false doctrine in the church that seriously affected their beliefs and behaviors. The warning was desperately needed; they were being deceived, after all. Paul follows this warning with an exhortation, urging them to wake up from their stupor, grow sober, and stop sinning through their poor choice of company.

I am convinced that we at Flushing Christian School must continue to prioritize critical thinking. It is important for our students to know how to research, look up sources, recognize the underlying ideologies, then process the information with discernment. They must be able to distinguish fact from opinion and truth from error. What I desire for myself, and what we desire for them is that they delight in God's Word, meditate on it and love Him with all their mind. Then, they will be able not only to think for themselves but also to engage this world with the truth in a humble, loving manner.

- Chantal Nelson
Head of School

A Fresh Start

Fresh Faces

God has blessed our school with a fresh batch of quality teachers! **Mr. Vladimir Vallejo** (far left) brings a variety of talents to our school. Besides serving as 7th grade homeroom and middle school social studies teacher, he also teaches our music electives and leads chapel worship. His relaxed personality and high expectations make him a perfect fit for the middle school classroom.

Mrs. Lynn Emerson (2nd from left) hails from Northern Ireland (though she doesn't like potatoes), bringing a lovely accent and a wealth of knowledge about English. She leads the 6th grade homeroom and teaches middle school ELA, offering fresh perspectives from her culture. She finds her greatest joys in seeing students grow more successful.

The first grade welcomes two teachers to their class.

Ms. Pittman (not pictured) has a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and will step in when Mrs. Zou (current teacher) goes on maternity leave. Interestingly, she learned about FCS while attending church services in our own school building!



Ms. Melissa Combs (2nd from right) comes with several years' experience working with young children. She has already interacted with our school when they visited McGoldrick Library, her former employer. Ms. Combs will be assisting the first grade. If she is not hiking with her family, she is likely playing ultimate frisbee barefoot!

Mrs. Lorena Salas (far right) arrives after teaching in the public school classroom for 14 years. As a deep thinker and avid blogger, she is thrilled to finally teach in a Christian environment. She grew up in Ecuador, and she brings her rich background into the Spanish classroom.

Fresh Responsibilities

With fresh faces on board, two of our teachers shifted to administrative roles. Mrs. Garcia now serves full-time in our office and spearheads the admissions process, while Mr. Snavelly has assumed more development responsibilities.



Fresh Connections



Our school community came together on August 27th to reconnect with each other. The meet and greet event included some fun games, sweet snacks, and lots of laughter! Incoming students connected with classmates, making it a great success!



Fresh Digs



Our new kindergarten classroom is bigger and brighter! Just steps away from the all-purpose room, this new space allows us to pour into our youngest students, leaving the former classroom open for other students receiving services.



Fall Events

Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser, October 15

After a two-year hiatus, our school community gathered on October 15 for a Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast, hosted by the PTFA. Students served as our wait staff, while families connected with teachers and ate their fill of delicious pancakes. This was a special time of connection and celebration!



Our silent auction also featured gift certificates and prize packages from area businesses. Featuring bidding both

online and in-person, we were grateful to raise close to \$1,200 for our tuition assistance fund.

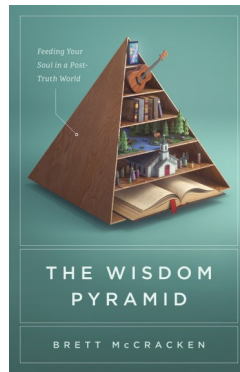


Visit tinyurl.com/applebees22pics for more pictures.

Pastors' & Youth Workers' Breakfast, November 1

The broader mission of Flushing Christian School is to support parents as they raise their children for God's kingdom. Key to our efforts is a healthy relationship with the network of area churches and youth groups.

To help strengthen this network, we host an annual breakfast for pastors and youth ministers. We both learn from their youth



ministries and share our parents' feedback. This year's breakfast will highlight our DeepRoots Bible curriculum (see below).

We also look to encourage pastors and provide them with fresh resources. Two recent discoveries have been *The Wisdom Pyramid* by Brett McCracken and *Resilient Kids* by Dr. Kathy Koch.

Subject Spotlight: Bible

In our Bible classes, we seek to impact a child's head, heart, and hands. A child must be able to understand the truth of Scripture, claim the truth in a personal, saving way, and then live out his faith with courage and grace.

One key component is our curriculum, DeepRoots. What do we love most about this?

With a combination of strong apologetics and deep devotional habits, DeepRoots equips our teachers to form and reinforce their students' faith.



Our parents appreciate this priority for our Bible class and our biblical integration. One parent who recently moved shares, "You guys are doing an awesome job incorporating the Bible into the curriculum. ...[My boys] enjoyed taking the Bible quizzes and memorizing Bible

verses with their peers. But more importantly they said they felt that they learned a lot about the Bible at FCS." Our Bible curriculum plays an essential role in our mission.

Flushing Christian School

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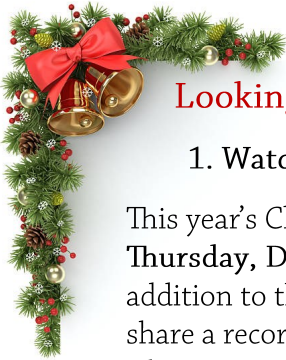
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Excellence
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Greeting the Season



Looking forward to Christmas?

1. Watch our Christmas concert!

This year's Christmas concert will be **Thursday, December 15, 7:15 pm**. In addition to the live performance, we will share a recording to our YouTube channel, where you can also watch previous concerts.



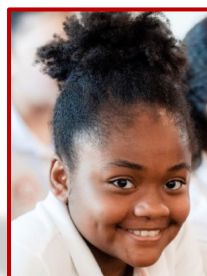
2. Shop and support FCS.

Your online order will be delivered to you, and our school receives 40% of the price. We especially recommend the cookie dough dots and wrapping paper!

tinyurl.com/orderfcs22

"Crowns of Joy" Annual Campaign

Would you support our tuition assistance fund? A year-end gift or monthly donation will make a difference. Email info@fcsnyc.org for more info.



Every child a treasure.

Every child an investment.