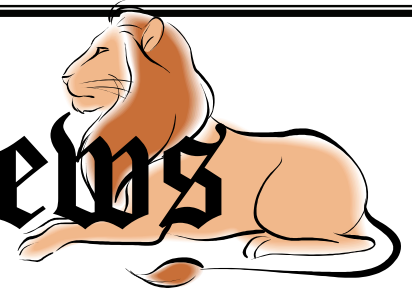


# The Mane News



December 15th, 2011

First Presbyterian Church School  
20 Tacoma Ave  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 272-7145

[www.fpcschoo.org](http://www.fpcschoo.org)



## Education is as Precious as Gold

FPCS is a classical Christian school. Our classical curriculum is centered around the Greek Trivium and reflects the predominant curriculum of the western world for most of the past 3000 years. The goal of instruction is not only growing academic prowess but a vibrant developing character that demonstrates more and more wisdom and moral excellence. We lay the foundation work in the minds and hearts of our students that will stand them in good stead for a lifetime to come. What we do here at FPCS is perhaps illustrated creatively in the three gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men of so long ago. Finding the young Jesus, they bowed down and worshipped him and then each gave him a most remarkable gift. One wise man gave him gold. There is no metal more precious, both in the ancient world and in our contemporary world of today. Like gold, education is precious as well. The Greek philosopher Aeschylus said of education, "I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning to sail my ship." Education provides a steady rudder through life's changeable times. It also is precious in that it gives the learner options in life. The renowned scientist, George Washington Carver declared, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." Education is as precious as gold and there is no better educational model than one that is classical. The second wise man gave Jesus the gift of incense. This incense



was fragrant and delightful to smell and highly prized. In the ancient world, foul smells were quite prevalent. In today's world, the fragrance of moral character should be highly prized. We live in an Enron - Goldman Sachs world where greed and corruption are rampant. Shaping young minds and hearts with the fragrance of arête (moral excellence) and sophia (wisdom) is a terrific privilege. The other wise man gave the gift of myrrh, also a fragrance. Just as Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths made sweet smelling by fragrance like myrrh, we wrap our classical educational model in a win-

some Christian world view. This world view provides our students with absolutes to live by rather than the unsteady wobbling relativism and skepticism of contemporary times. Education, moral excellence, Christian world view. Here then are three gifts for times such as ours and a school like FPCS that are as precious as those given to the Christ child!

Merry Christmas!

Dr. Jim



# Calendar & Mane Events

<b>January 2012</b>							Mon 1/2 <b>Mon 1/16</b> Fri 1/20 Thurs 1/26	School Resumes <b>MLK Day - Office Closed</b> PtC Family Night Open House & Re-Enrollment Event
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
						31		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	<b>16</b>	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30	31						
<b>February 2012</b>							1/27-2/10 Mon 2/13 <b>Fri 2/17</b> Mon 2/20	Re-Enrollment Open Enrollment Begins <b>Professional Development Day - No School</b> <b>Presidents' Day - Office Closed</b>
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa		
n	n	e	d	u		t		
			1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12	13	14	15	16	<b>17</b>	18		
19	<b>20</b>	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29					

## *Christmas Program: "Call Him Jesus"*

**December 15th**  
**All School Christmas Program**



Join together with the FPCS family to rejoice in the Christmas Spirit!



**PtC Family Movie Night**  
 Friday, January 20th

Watch for details in January about our double feature and plan on a fun-filled evening at FPCS!

**FPCS Open House**  
**Thursday, Jan 26th, 2012**  
**5:30pm**  
 Open House & Re- Enrollment!

Come enroll, check out the next step up, And invite a friend who you think might like to benefit from the blessing of our school.

More Re-Enrollment info to follow in January.



**MUSIC**

Getting ready for the Christmas Program!



## PtC

We can scarcely believe that Christmas break is upon us! The first part of the school year has gone quickly but we cannot say thank you enough

to all of the amazing parents at FPCS who have given so generously of their time and talent. A big thank you to those of you who recently helped with our successful wreath sale!

We can hardly believe that our next event will be in the new year. Plans are under way for Family Movie Night on January 20. If you are interested in helping, please contact us!

In the new year, we will begin planning our February and March family nights. Please join us for our meetings to help us make these events successful! Also, we still need

a chairperson for these two events. If you are interested please contact either one of us. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

### Upcoming ways to get involved:

**Tuesday, January 3 @ 9am:  
February Family Night Planning**

**Tuesday, February 7 @ 9am:  
March Bowling Night Planning**

Please consider where you would like to contribute your talents this school year, whether you are willing to take a "lead position" or help when/where needed. Currently we are still in need of the following immediate and upcoming leadership positions:

- Pen Pal Co-Chair
- Auction Table Captain Chair
- Auction Ticket Sales Chair

- February Family Night (Sock Hop?) Chair
- March Family Night (Bowling?) Chair

To learn more or volunteer, contact Diana or Jennifer or the school office to answer any of your questions. *Thank you for being a part of our great school.*

Your PtC Co-Chairs,

Jennifer Reichert  
253-752-7513  
[jenniferdreichert@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferdreichert@gmail.com)

Diana Agustsson  
815-209-5375  
[d.agustsson@gmail.com](mailto:d.agustsson@gmail.com)

**Each of us** should use whatever **gift** she/he has received to **serve** each other, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

## Specialist Spotlight

*Monthly feature: Spanish with Mrs. Connally*

Another year has begun in our Spanish and Latin classes, and it's good to be with the FPCS students again. They are bright, creative learners, and it's a pleasure to work with them.

As I worked with the kindergarteners this morning, I began to say, "Last week we used the Spanish word for 'autumn . . .'"

"*Otoño!*" one of them immediately said. I was delighted. Recall of foreign words can be difficult. Here at FPCS Spanish is taught half an hour twice a week in each grade. Considering how large language actually is, in elementary school we can only begin this exciting journey; still, I do see the children growing in their knowledge. Latin is taught here in two fifteen-minute segments a week, as an exploration of root words. My overall objectives are

To help the students see that other cultures express ideas differently

To help them enjoy the challenge of working with new words

To give them a preliminary familiarity with Spanish that will make language study easier for them in middle school

To enhance their basic understanding of grammar

To further their English vocabulary development by teaching Latin roots.

At this point in the school year our kindergartners and first graders have worked with some basic greetings, sung songs naming parts of the body, enjoyed some Spanish story books and tried out words related to autumn. Second and third graders have enjoyed practicing some basic questions and answers with each other and learning songs. In the upcoming months they will explore the fall and winter seasons and holidays. Fourth and fifth graders have made a good start with learning some Latin roots and some English words derived from these. In Spanish they have worked with personal pronouns and some different verb forms. Not all of this is easy, and I am pleased with the progress I see them making.

Some of you have asked about vocabulary lists for Spanish. I begun sending these home in early November. Thanks a lot for wanting to support the children's language learning, because practice at home will really help them to retain it. Thanks also for giving me the opportunity to work with your children. They are a joy!

## Financial Aid Information for 2012-2013

Our Re-Enrollment event on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 will kick off registration for the 2012-2013 school year, and that is just around the corner! With this in mind, we realize some of our families will be in need of financial aid for the coming school year. If you would like to be considered for financial assistance, you must pick up the financial aid packet in the office beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. This year we are partnering with the Aid Assessment division of FACTS, the same company that manages our monthly payment plans. **To be considered for any financial assistance, these applications must be postmarked by February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.**

Please contact the school office with any other questions. 253-272-7145

## FPCS is Thankful for all of the Lord's Blessings and our current Sponsors...

*Spencer Construction*

*Kumon*

*Tacoma Family Chiropractic*

*The Gray Law Firm*

*Cascade Park Vista, Assisted Living*

*The Nehls Family*

*The Ponraj Family*

*The Fix Family*

*The Hamill Family*



*Merry Christmas!*

## FPCS Classifieds

*More of the what, when, where and the needs-to-know...*

# SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar now for...

**Saturday, March 10th, 2012!**

Our Annual All School Vision Auction is not to miss!

We are accepting procurement donations now!



### January Hot Lunch Menu:

- 1/5: Teriyaki Chicken & Rice
- 1/12: Lasagna
- 1/19: Pizza
- 1/26: Burgers



### Upcoming School Closures

12/16-12/30: Christmas Break  
(No School on Friday December 16th!)

(School Resumes Monday, January 2nd)

### New FPCS Offerings coming for 2012-2013!

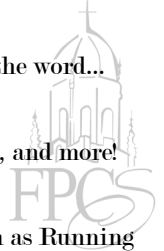
Watch for details in January about some of our new offerings that we will have for the 2012-2013 school year! Spread the word...

**Pre Kindergarten & Jr. Kindergarten All Day Class Options: Monday– Friday 8:40am– 3:10pm**

The afternoon portions of their day will be an Arts Enrichment Program that will include dance, fine art, drama, music, and more!

**After School Club: Monday– Friday until 5:30pm**

You will have the option to enroll your child(ren) in our after school Club Program which will include fun activities such as Running Club, Chess Club, Science Club, Drama Club, and more!



### Weather info!!!

As the weather starts to change and get colder and the snow levels start to drop, we want to remind you that we will follow the Tacoma Public School #10 for closures or late arrivals.

We will list our closure on our website home page [www.fpschool.org](http://www.fpschool.org) and we will post it to Facebook.

**A 2 hr late start for FPCS means...**

- elementary students and All Day Kindergarten will arrive at 10:30 AM
  - AM preschool and AM Kindergarten will be cancelled
  - PM preschool will be on regular schedule



### SCRIP:

Watch for the SCRIP Table with "Take Now" cards at school events and the 1st Wednesday of every month at pick-up times!

Bring your checkbook or credit card (for purchases over \$400).

### Happenings at the Church...



Join us for Wednesday Night Dinners and Bible Studies!  
They will resume after Holidays!



FPC Christmas Eve Service  
Saturday, December 24th at 7pm

FPC Christmas Morning Service  
Sunday, December 25th at 10:30am