



Crusader Chronicle



Spring 2016

NEW GYM PHASE I NEARS COMPLETION

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Desk of the Principal

by Deborah Batsell

Administrators and teachers everywhere recognize the important contributions parents make toward a child's success in school. There is no question about it – success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child's schooling. Parents model both a silent and spoken language in front of their children daily.

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and parents who work together for the best interest of children. The close partnership between home and school is one of the exceptional strengths of First Baptist School.

Volunteers Make an Impact

First Baptist School has a strong tradition of supportive, hard-working parents. Throughout the year parents have the opportunity to develop that partnership in a wide variety of ways. Our volunteer program continues to grow with the help of parent coaches in athletics and academic competitions, special event preparation (program receptions, Charro Days celebrations) and tutoring. We also have retirees volunteering to work with students in small groups and one on one – a great opportunity for grandparents to get involved.

At the same time, some of our seniors are volunteering to help our elementary students as academic coaches and tutors.

New Building Phase I

You can't help but notice the construction project on the west side of campus. This is the first phase of the new building which will ultimately house a full size gym, locker rooms, and a number of classrooms. This first phase will provide a covered pavilion for students to play and PE classes to meet. Phase II will include the first classrooms, bathrooms and the locker rooms. As with all of the church and school operations, this project is not financed but paid for from the donations of church members, school parents and through our annual **Servants in Action** fundraiser. This year's **Servants in Action** (April 21) proceeds will be used to help fund Phase II – two new classrooms, PE locker rooms and bathrooms.

3-Year Old Program

This fall will see the return of the 3 year old program. Parents of 3 & 4 year olds will have the opportunity to select from several flexible options including 3 days/5 days and half day or full day according to the desires of the parent.



Elementary Special Classes

This year brought the expansion of our elementary program with the addition of more enhancement classes.

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Alumni Announcements

With our 10th senior class graduating this May, FBS graduates are completing their post-secondary and professional degrees and making us proud.

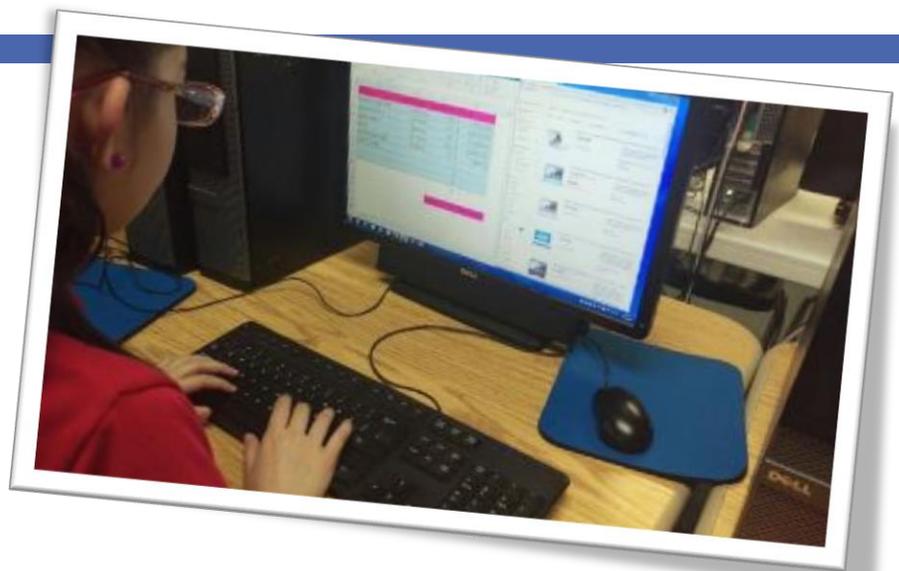
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Elementary Special Classes

Elementary students began 2 new classes this year! In the past Library Skills, Art and Technology were part of their weekly rotation. In looking for ways to expand our student's horizons and opportunities, the elementary faculty reorganized the schedule and added two new offerings: Sign Language and Latin.

The students have been very excited about the new classes and really enjoyed being able to learn new things. One of our third graders when greeted with a "Good Morning. How are you?" paused, thought about it for a moment and responded "Bene" (Latin for well). Another went home and told his mother, "Mom, I am learning 4 languages!"

The new Latin curriculum emphasizes songs and games to make learning the basic Latin phrases fun and different. As our students.



ELEMENTARY TECHNOLOGY

Elementary Technology Classes, taught by Mr. Chad Bender, emphasize keyboarding and computer skills development. As well the students are introduced to and use learning management systems like Schoology.

learn, they are given the keys to expanding their vocabularies and being able to recognize the meanings of unknown words.

Learning sign language has given our students the chance to enhance their coordination and learn to communicate with those unable to hear. They really enjoy the challenge



Elementary and middle school students participate in three levels of scholastic and fine art competitions throughout the year. First Baptist students participate in Speech Performance, Spelling Bee, Math Olympics, Science Fair at the local, district and state level, and dance at our local school level. The Brownsville Area Non-Public Schools Administrators (**BANSA**) a local private school organization hosts Science Discovery Day, Spelling Bee, and a Folklorico dance festival entitled Entre Amigos.

On Science Discovery Day student representatives from each school join in collaborative science activities and compete to solve hands-on science challenges. BANSA participates in the National Scripps Spelling Bee Competition,

Academic and Cultural Competition News

and hosts a local event each year. The winner from our school represents FBS at the Annual Rio Grande Valley Spelling Bee. We celebrate Charro Days with



our sister schools the Entre Amigos Dance Festival. Two classes are selected from our elementary to represent our school to dance traditional Mexican dances each year in February. This year's entries will be the 1 – 2 grade and the 3 – 5 grade girls.

Our accrediting organization ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) hosts three events in our area including Math Olympics, Spelling Bee, and Speech Festival. The Math

Olympic teams compete in the areas of computation and reasoning at the Area Math Olympics in San Antonio. Each year they are among the top students in the area. For the past five years, First Baptist School students

have been among the top four spellers in the Rio Grande Valley to



compete in the ACSI Regional Spelling Bee in Plano, Texas. The ACSI District Speech Festival gives our students the opportunity to practice public speaking by presenting poetry, prose, patriotic oration, folktales, and scripture before a panel of judges.

Crusaders in Action: Alumni



Congratulations to **Rebecca Cisneros (FBS-2007)** who became Dr. Rebecca Cisneros, MD. when she graduated from Ross University School of Medicine last May. She will be doing her residency in OB/GYN at Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center in New York.

2008

Matthew Cass, class of 2008 married Jennifer Silva on July 31st in Alvin, Texas. Matt, a graduate of Criswell College with a BA in Biblical Studies, currently serves as a House Church Pastor with Church Project Dallas and works as a specialist with Apple, Inc.



1st Lieutenant Wesley Roberts (FBS-2008), is currently finishing his last semester at UT Medical Center in Galveston. When he graduates, Wesley will be completing his medical internship in General Practice Medicine at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada.



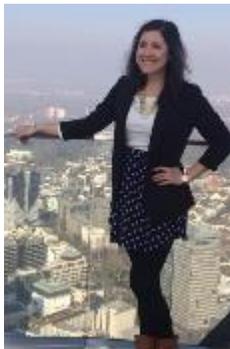
2009



Taylor Barnard (FBS-2009) has begun a new position with AXA Advisors in Georgetown. Taylor (FBS-2009) has earned his BA and MBA from University of Mary-Hardin Baylor and is married to Allison Barnard.

2010

Daniela Loera, class of 2010, has joined the staff of Good Shepherd Community Church in Brownsville. Daniela has a BA from Mary-Hardin Baylor in International Business.



Matthew Juarez, class of 2010, graduated from Texas Christian University with a BS in Nutrition Science and Engineering.



2011



2nd Lieutenant Robert Crumley, class of 2011 graduated from Anglo State University with a degree in Homeland Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism. He is currently stationed at Vandenberg AFB.

#lastclass

#utb



Aly Guajardo, class of 2011 graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Law and Justice in the last graduating class of the University of Texas Brownsville. Aly is currently a student at Texas A & M Law School in Fort Worth.

Ana Karen Carretero, Class of 2011, graduated with a degree in Business. She is currently studying Mandarin Chinese at Fudan University in Shanghai, China.



#firstclass

#utrgv



Alixandra Lopez, Class of 2012 graduated with a degree in Business Management. She is currently serving as an administrative assistant

here at FBS.

Ana Andrade, class of 2011, graduated with a degree in Biology. She is planning on applying to medical school.



Hannah Roberts, class of 2010, graduated Suma Cum Laude with a degree in Bilingual Education. She will be attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rounding out the #firstclass of UTRGV was **Beatriz de la Garza** with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Undergrad News:

Congratulations to **Christopher Rodriguez** (class of 2014) who is currently attending Cornell University, on his acceptance to the Philosophy, Politics and Economics Study Abroad program at St. Catherine's College, Oxford University.

Please send Alumni updates to the FBS School Office for inclusion in the next edition of The Crusader Chronicle.

Faculty News

Advanced Degree

George Lovegrove

High School Science Teacher and Junior Class Co-sponsor

George Lovegrove completed his **Masters Degree in Education** in

December. This, along with his previous course work as a medical student has qualified him to teach Dual Enrollment Biology and Anatomy. Fun fact: Mr. Lovegrove traveled to Nepal this past summer as part of a missions relief team.



COLLEGE DUAL ENROLLMENT FACULTY

Our high school Dual Enrollment program which allows our high school upper classmen to earn college credit while taking classes here on the FBS campus has grown steadily. Currently, Karen Dorman, MA, is teaching Composition I&II and Literature I&II. Mr. Mortalla, MS, is teaching College Algebra and Pre-Calculus. Mr. Lovegrove's classes will bring the available college credits to 24, at a cost of \$5 per course to each student. This allows our graduating seniors to complete almost a full year of college before high school graduation. We appreciate their hard work in getting their advanced degrees and certifications, making our program stronger and greatly benefiting our students.

New Teachers

First Baptist School has a faculty that is on a mission. This year we have had the pleasure of having four new faculty members join our team. For those who don't know them, here they are:

Kelly Demory

Miss Demory has joined us as the new second grade teacher.

She was a student here at First Baptist School, in fact she had Mrs. Landin as her math teacher in middle school. She graduated from UTB in 2014 with her BA. She is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Counseling. Fun fact: Miss Demory sang opera while in the University!



Iliana Macias

Throughout her time here at FBS, Iliana has been working on completing her teaching degree and has now moved from the First Baptist School Office to the **Kinder-4** classroom. Mrs. Macias is loving working with the Kinder-4 students. Fun Fact: Mrs. Macias has come full circle, coming to FBS first as a parent. She has three children: sons Ramiro (FBS class of 2010) and Aldo (FBS class of 2012) and Grecia (FBS - 7th grade).



Lindsey Coblentz

Mrs. Coblentz is from Brownsville and graduated from Hardin-Simons University. She and her husband lead the Middle School ministry in their church. **Middle School History and Health** keep her very busy. She enjoys the culture of our school because it allows her to encourage both academic and spiritual growth in her students. FUN FACT: Mr. and Mrs. Coblentz love to run competitive distance races!



Lidka Vasquez

First grade this year is under the very capable hands of Mrs. Lidka Vasquez. Mrs. Vasquez, a native of Nicaragua, grew up in Brownsville and graduated from UTB. She taught in the public schools for 5 years, before she and her husband moved to San Antonio. She and her four children, Ethan (6th grade), Noah (4th grade), Sienna (1st grade) and Natalie (k-4) have been a welcome addition to the FBS family. She says that she loves first graders because they love stories and love to have stories read to them. Fun Fact: Mrs. Vasquez has played volleyball at UTB and coached this year at FBS.



Anniversaries

Deborah Batsell – 30 years

Mrs. Batsell began her ministry to the students of First Baptist School, teaching Algebra I in January 1986. She has served as the Lead Teacher of Middle School, the Assistant Administrator and for the past 10 years, the School Principal.



DID YOU

KNOW?

Of our 23 full time teachers, 11 have Masters Degrees, 1 has two Masters, one has a Doctoral Degree and 3 more are working on Masters Degrees.

DID YOU KNOW?