



FVLA Follower

✝ a Christ-focused discipleship experience ✝
brought alive in an outstanding learning community

Fall 2004

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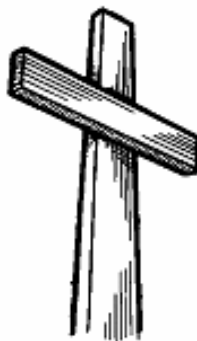
Principal's Perspective

It is with excitement and pleasure that we publish the first edition of the *FVLA Follower*. We hope that, through its periodic publication, we keep you informed and once again connected to this high school ministry making you an *FVLA Follower*.

For more reason than that, however, we have chosen to use the word "follower." We want to remind everyone that, for the very sustaining of life, our primary goal must be to follow Christ. We express that importance in the school's vision statement: *Fox Valley Lutheran Academy is a Christ-focused discipleship experience brought alive in an outstanding learning community.* A disciple is a

follower and, more importantly, a learner. We learn of Christ so that we find meaning and usefulness for the rest of what we learn.

Our vision statement grows from this philosophy. *We believe that God uniquely created us, divinely forgives us, lovingly equips us, and patiently guides us. Therefore, we are compelled to intentionally provide a Christ-focused environment whose goal is empowering the leaders of tomorrow to be disciples of Christ who are grounded in faith and equipped to live in service to others.*



To bring alive this philosophy, we focus on the cross of Christ where alone we are forgiven, where alone we rest securely held by Him, where alone we are called by Him to live our vocation as His disciples empowered by His forgiveness.

So, our prayer for all FVLA Followers is that they be first followers of Christ, learning of Him, living because of His forgiveness.

Janet Zimdahl
Principal

Focus on the Staff

JANET BURMEISTER

Miss Burmeister has completed six years of service to FVLA. In that time she served in many different capacities, previously as Principal and currently as Assistant Principal, Science Teacher, Athletic Director and Student Activities Council Advisor. It is obvious

how important she is to our ministry at Fox Valley, and we daily thank the Lord for her ministry service. She holds an M.A. in Administration from Concordia University where she also received her B.A. While in college, she did her student teaching right here at Valley! Prior to

her arrival at FVLA she taught science for 3 years at Lutheran High Northwest in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She also served at Valley Lutheran High School in Phoenix for 15 years during which time she taught math, computers, and was principal.

FVLA Staff

Principal
Janet Zimdahl

Asst. Principal
Janet Burmeister

Teachers
Rev Hannibal Frederich
Hannah Gurnett
David Kuhfahl
Karl Lauer
Kathy O'Connor
Dorie Pearson
Jean Rahn
Peg Youngren

Support Staff
Merilee Werrbach
Carol Ann Thomas

Annual Walkathon Highly Successful

The annual Fox Valley Lutheran Academy Walkathon was another astonishing success in building the core of support for the school and in solidifying a feeling of community among the school families. For the second year in a row, total funds raised have exceeded \$20,000 through the hard work of students, parents, and faculty. Students worked diligently in their respective churches to solicit donations for the event. The response from the members of area churches was very significant in generating the astounding results.

As students and faculty walked from Hosanna! Lutheran Church in St. Charles to the property site owned by FVLA, parents gathered to prepare lunch and also to serve refreshments at the half way point. In addition, several members of the school's board of directors joined in the walk to support the

student body.

Principal Janet Zimdahl added her reaction to the day, "We are a community that supports and serves one another. For this particular event, that community extends far beyond the day to day reach of this ministry. For that support and the efforts of our school families, we are grateful."

The sunshine of success warms the hearts of all who see so many exciting and promising blessings as the school begins its fourth decade of ministry to the families of the Fox Valley area.



Having walked half the distance of the 10 kilometer Walkathon, students rest at the 33 acre FVLA property site in St. Charles. Sunshine, refreshments, and fellowship made the stop delightful.

Meet the Board: Terry Pfortmiller

Terry Pfortmiller's initial connection to FVLA began many years ago when he enrolled as a freshman at Valley. Four years later he was a member of the Class of 1978, the first four-year graduating class of Valley Lutheran High School. His college education began at Elgin Community College and continued at Northern Illinois University where he earned his B.S. in Accountancy. Later he received his M.S. in Taxation from De Paul University and also became a certified CPA. Terry is employed at Aldi Inc. where he is Vice President of Finance and Corporate Ad-

ministration. Besides being chairman of FVLA's board, he also serves on the Board of Directors of the Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation. He is a life-long member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Elgin where he has been involved in a variety of church leadership positions. In addition to his leadership skills, he brings to FVLA a dedication to ministry and a passion for Lutheran education. Terry and his wife Debbie live in Elgin with their daughters Tera (a senior at FVLA), Tegan, and Tessa.

Contact FVLA

We look forward to hearing from you, so share with us the significance this ministry has had for you, give us the address of someone who'd like to receive this newsletter, or volunteer to be part of building the future.

Send your information to fvla_jz@yahoo.com

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220 Division Street
Elgin, IL 60120

Tel. 847-468-8207
Fax 847-742-2930

Board of Directors

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St. John's — Elgin

Vice Chairman

Andrew Locke
Lord of Life — La Fox

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St. John's — Elgin

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Joe Heinz
Immanuel — East Dundee
Carol Hipple
St. Paul's UCC — Elgin
Ann Lesh
Good Shepherd — Elgin
Lynda Ranieri
St. Peter — Schaumburg

Fox Valley Lutheran Academy...

Fall Athletes Generate Enthusiasm

This fall brought FVLA fans and athletes memorable moments during the volleyball and cross country seasons. Major success for the volleyball team was experienced when they defended their title in the Luther South tournament by bringing home the championship trophy



for the second year in a row. Their overall 3-6 record in the Tollway Athletic Conference brought them a fourth place conference finish. Ashleigh Mounger, Tera Pfortmiller, and Char Madsen all received conference honors for their play.

Sam DuBose was the lone cross country runner. After finishing first in most of the meets, Sam represented FVLA in the IHSA state cross country meet the first weekend in November. His path to state began when he finished first in the regional meet and seventh in the sectionals. At the state meet, Sam finished 39th in the state out of over 200 talented participants.



The Paul and Irma Snyder Freshman Scholarship Award

Responding in gratitude for the blessings given to Fox Valley Lutheran Academy through a recent bequest, FVLA has announced the Paul and Irma Snyder Freshman Scholarship Award for the 2005-2006 school year. Desiring to invest in the future of the FVLA ministry, the Board of Directors considered various options and decided it was important to use a portion of the bequest to provide this assistance to incoming freshmen students.

For students to take advantage of this

opportunity, the school has designated that the first 15 qualified freshmen who apply for the '05-'06 school year will be given a \$2500 scholarship for their first year of study. Early application and decision is necessary to be eligible for the scholarship since applications for consideration must be received before January 15, 2005.

FVLA is grateful for the opportunity to provide these scholarships for incoming freshmen. Student assistance was stated as one of the desires of the Snyders, and

the school is confident that their plans help carry out these wishes. FVLA is pleased with the interest that has already been generated in the scholarship. This money helps facilitate a continued growth in the ministry by offering assistance to students who take advantage of an educational environment that lives its vision of being a Christ-focused discipleship experience brought alive in an outstanding learning community. Interested parents should contact the school office at 847-468-8207 for additional information.

From The Heart of Alumni Joe Heinz '88 and Julia Brauer Heinz

As students in a Lutheran high school, we felt the presence of the Lord in our dedicated and passionate teachers, worship experiences, and friends. But it is only now, as parents of children in a Lutheran school, that we see the greater picture—that is, Lutheran education not as a shelter from the secular world but

as the unshakable foundation for a life that brings glory to God. The sports trophies lose their luster and the diploma is filed away, but the faith, poured by parents and teachers and cured by their example and prayers, is the foundation for our life together, and the enduring legacy of our years in school.

Joe is Vice President and Co-owner of Gerald L. Heinz and Associates, Consulting Engineers in Dundee.

Julia is a pre-school teacher's aide and volunteer at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Dundee where Joe, Julia, and their two children are members.

... giving each student a greater opportunity to excel

Now Is The Time

Wow! The first edition of the *FVLA Follower* is a reality, and we hope you have enjoyed this entire issue. You may wonder why we have chosen *now* to publish this newsletter since, for quite a while, you received limited communication regarding Valley Lutheran High School ("VLHS") or Fox Valley Lutheran Academy ("FVLA"). Let us explain!

Now is the time to rebuild relationships. The board and administration have developed an empowering new vision, philosophy, and mission for FVLA's future ministry. During this strategic visioning process we became aware of how "out of touch" we have been with the many faithful supporters of this ministry. We further recognized that it has been by God's grace that this ministry has survived over the years, delivered through the dedicated prayer, financial, and volunteer support from many of Christ's followers. With sincere gratefulness, this is the foundation on which we establish the future.

Now is the time to rediscover your unique connection. Whether you are an alumnus, alumni parent, financial supporter, or a good friend of Lutheran education, take a minute to reflect on what VLHS and FLVA provided you and your family. For over thirty years "Valley" has given students a quality education while building the fundamentals of Christian vocation.

Now is also the time to remember your foundations of Christian discipleship which Valley was instrumental in building and nurturing. There are many individual testimonies regarding the impact these foundations are having for God's kingdom. If you have one, please share it with us.

Now is the time the board begins executing the recently developed strategic plans. One of the key components has been the establishment of a task force to evaluate the development alternatives of the property owned and located near Randall Road in St. Charles. This property has increased significantly in value allowing the school to borrow during the recent deficit years. It also offers strategic opportunity *now* for the future.

Now there are so many exciting plans for the future which we will share in upcoming issues of the *FVLA Follower*. In the meantime, we encourage you to rejoin us in the rebuilding process with your prayer support. May God continue to bless your discipleship journey and the

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ministry of FVLA.

Terry Pfortmiller
Chairman, Board of Directors

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Elgin, IL 60120

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