



FVLA Follower

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

Winter 2007

Principal's Perspective

Walking an open road always brings new discoveries along the way. That, in part, is what makes such a walk an exciting venture. Looking at the picture of the gravel road on our property site brings that sense of anticipation and excitement about what lies ahead as it makes one ponder the view from the end of the road and the steps of the journey along the way. Our destination, captured in words, is to build a sustainable model learning organization that is the area's premier provider of quality Christ-focused high school education.

What a stimulating goal to work towards! What an exhilarating goal to realize! We are in the process of doing just that. During this year we are working to garner the support and expand involvement in the areas necessary to realize that goal. Many people have said how eager they are to have the long-existing dream become reality. So, what steps are next? There are various groups presently working or in the process of being formed. An alumni committee is creating a vision and

structure for an alumni association. A marketing committee is formulating a communication plan. The facility committee is preparing proposals for builders and developing a school design plan. In addition, there is the educational program to continue expanding, student recruiting to do, and financial planning to happen. All of these areas constitute important steps along the way.

How can you become involved? Praying daily for guidance for those already hard at work is important and will make this venture successful. Also vital is financial support both for current operations and for the eventual capital campaign.

Will you walk the steps with us? Where do you fit? Pray about it. Say "yes" when

asked either personally or by a more general appeal. Ask yourself: what are your talents? How can they facilitate progress in the areas listed above?



In the meantime look for news on our website in the first months of 2008 as we prepare a link that will keep site visitors informed about progress being made. Also through the website we will be asking for specific skill involvement.

For now visit www.fvla.com and www.valleyalumns.com

to familiarize yourself with the sites, and mark them as favorites so you can visit often. Then, by giving of your time and talent, become part of creating this sustainable model learning organization that can be the area's premier provider of quality Christ-focused high school education. Together we will design the future and walk the path to our destination!

Dinner Auction—April 19, 2008

Plans are underway to make this year's annual dinner auction the biggest and best yet. Under the leadership of Chairperson Lisa Pfortmiller, the hard-working committee has chosen the theme "Designing the Future," and they have sent out to Valley supporters and past auction attendees save-the-date cards which publicize the event date of April 19, 2008.

The committee has also decided to

change the venue this year and give auction guests a different place to enjoy the evening. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn in Elgin. Working with a new venue provider always brings excitement and anticipation of newness. That is so fitting as the school itself is focusing on the newness of the future and bringing to reality the vision of a new location, a new building, and expanded programs.

The committee would welcome partici-

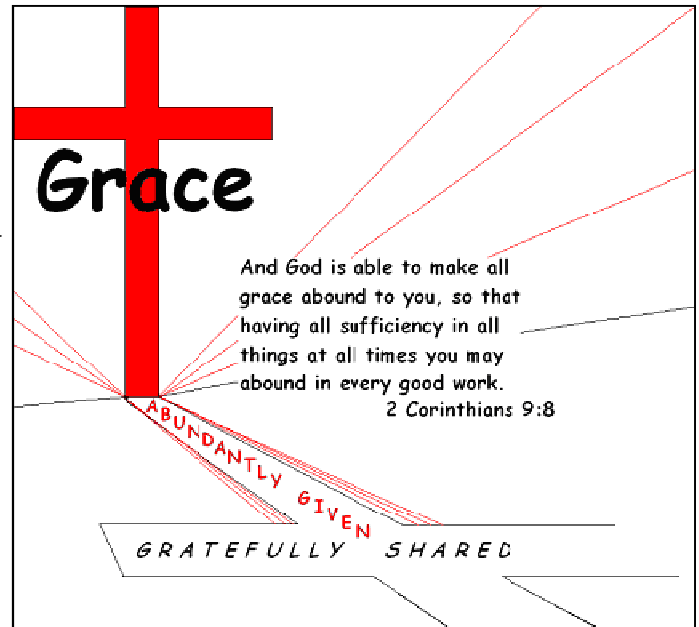
pation from individuals not involved before. They are seeking persons willing to become connected to the event and be instrumental in designing the future by attending the auction, by donating items to be put up for bidding that evening, or by being part of the auction committee. To become involved in any of the ways listed, call the school office at 847-468-8207. All the different types of assistance given will become part of bringing alive the design for the future.

School Year Theme Guides Daily Living

Powerful words are embodied in this school year's theme: **Grace: Abundantly Given. Gratefully Shared.** The concept of God's endless grace permeates Scripture. From all of those references to the gracious acts of God, the school has chosen 2 Corinthians 9:8 as the theme verse: *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times you may abound in every good work.* During the course of the school year, individual phrases from that verse will serve as the emphasis of the month for chapel services, opening meditation with students, devotions with the faculty, and spiritual growth time for the board of directors.

In each setting the focus will be on how God, in all His power and gentleness, acts upon us, His servants, with endless grace. His abundant and eternal mercy is embodied in the forgiveness that He showers upon us all. His patience and His love are always abundantly given and beyond the comprehension of the human mind. As a result, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for God's generosity. Our response? We are moved to gratefully share the abundance of His grace with those around us. That is evidenced in the way we serve others and how we share God's forgiveness with them.

The theme personifies FVLA's ongoing emphasis on the development of servant leaders and helps bring alive the school's mission *to prepare students, through the integration of education and the Christian faith, to live as disciples of Christ serving God and others.* The school is about the business of empowering the leaders of tomorrow from the most authentic point of motivation: God's grace.



Winterm: Exciting New Program

Delving deeper into fascinating topics and providing hands-on opportunities to learn is the purpose behind the Winterm seminar program that FVLA will offer its students in January. By using a variety of opportunities to expand the time spent discussing and learning, students and teachers will take education beyond the normal classroom experience creating excitement and increasing interest and involvement.

Each day will focus on a different topic, and all activities, varied in nature, will enhance understanding of the issues surrounding that topic. Problems to be studied during the week-long program will include world hunger, leadership and teamwork development, computer ethics with implications for the student both now and in the future workplace, the environmental impact of being green, and the challenges of stress and life-style on healthy living. By dealing with a separate topic each day, students will begin to uncover the complexities involved, thereby connecting learning to life and increasing the relevancy of the material to each individual.

By having a full day to focus on each theme, students will not only have a better opportunity to internalize the intricacies of the

subject; they will also become more deeply involved. For example, after spending the morning dealing with the problem of world hunger by examining the topic from all different angles of the curriculum, the school has arranged with the Feed My Starving Children organization to spend the afternoon doing something about world hunger by preparing nutrition packets to be sent to starving children who are suffering. This provides an advantage over regular classroom teaching where it is more difficult to follow up learning about issues with being able to do something about them.

To offer this superb opportunity, the school will administer semester exams on the last days before Christmas, thereby having students complete the course of study for the first half of the year. During the first week back following Christmas break, the Winterm seminar program will provide the learning focus before the second semester begins on January 14th.

All of what the students will experience during that week in January is part of the better opportunity and more growth that FVLA can and does offer its students.

Fox Valley Lutheran Academy...

Alumni Committee Creating Vision

A group of alumni has been meeting to discuss the purpose of an alumni association and create a vision and structure for such an organization. They began by sharing their valued Valley experiences and how important those experiences were for shaping who they are today, how they view the world, and what draws them to the calling they now have. The emotion and electrifying excitement was obvious as the group discussed what their high school experience meant to them and how important they felt it would be for future generations of high schoolers to experience a Christian education equally valuable for them.

Alumni involved in this important endeavor have been brought together under the leadership of **Ann Short Lesh ('81)** who also serves on the school's Board of Directors. Ann and her husband Mark live in South Elgin and have two children who attend Good Shepherd Lutheran School where Ann is in charge of small group ministry.

Other alumni involved on the committee include Ann's fellow board member **Alan Loeb ('85)**. Alan and his wife Kristi are members of Lord of Life in LaFox, and Alan is the Aurora site supervisor for the Feed My Starving Children organization.

Nancy Klopke Glissman was part of Valley's first graduating class in 1977. She and her husband Tom have one daughter and are members of Good Shepherd in Elgin. Nancy views her work with developmentally disabled adults and their families as a case manager for AID in Elgin to be a calling to do the Lord's work.

Wendy Lamprecht Parsons ('81) and husband John live in Al-

gonquin. Wendy graduated from Concordia River Forest and taught in the Lutheran School system for 10 years. She now works in Vernon Hills as a digitizer/graphic artist in the embroidery and screen print industry and also serves on the board of education at her church in Huntley. **Jonathan Stumpf ('78)** and wife Vickie have four children and live in Schaumburg. Jon is a regional director of Genzyme Genetics where he helps medical directors at managed care organizations develop medical policy and negotiate contracts for cancer and reproductive diagnostics. **Mark Beckmann ('81)** and wife Kara live in Batavia. His job as a software sales executive finds him traveling frequently. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Chicago Lights, a non-profit organization that focuses on changing the lives of individuals and families who face the challenges of aging, poverty, and access to education and healthcare.

Listening to these individuals reflect on their Valley experience and their reason for involvement on the committee is very inspiring. Included here are samples of those comments. "The Valley experience is something you always carry with you." "I believe we still have, and always will have, the need for a Christ centered, quality high school education." "Valley had a profound effect on my faith and created a deeper understanding of my relationship with the Lord." "I hope to aid in giving back to Valley so others can have the Christian community experience I did there."

Truly both the school and the alumni themselves will benefit from the work of this group.

Volleyball's Exciting Season

The FVLA Falcon volleyball team finished the season with a record of 11 wins and 11 losses thereby showing marked improvement over the four victories of last year. Despite playing a challenging schedule which included matches with 2A, 3A, and 4A schools, the team still finished with a stronger record. The tough schedule allowed the girls to improve and required them to learn the strength and value of playing together as a team.

Even though the group played many of their first games with only five players, they refused to give up. By developing a fine sense of teamwork, they delighted the fans with an excellent display of agility and perseverance as the girls hustled to cover the court and keep the ball in play. To do this well, each team member needed to communicate with the other players and to learn the abilities of each of their teammates.

It was a great season for fan and player alike as it provided many highlights and exciting moments including the thrilling Homecoming victory.

Homecoming 2007

Each year Homecoming is a special part of a student's high school experience providing memories to hold for a long time. Homecoming 2007 began with each class showing spirit and creativity by designing and wearing special class t-shirts and transforming a section of the school into an array of impressive decorations in their class colors.

Each of the subsequent days during the week revolved around a particular theme, such as Pajama Day, Hat and Sunglasses Day, Disney Day, and Spirit Day. A week ending highlight was an astoundingly close volleyball game against Luther East which FVLA won to the excitement and delight of all of the assembled fans. Concluding the festivities was the Homecoming dance where students enjoyed music, dancing, and the coronation of the Homecoming king and queen.

Beyond all the fun activities, the students also chose to do a service project of collecting Bibles for distribution to world areas where they are needed. Six boxes of Bibles were collected and sent.

... giving each student a greater opportunity to excel

33 Acres of Opportunity

In 1995 under the leadership of a forward-thinking board of directors, FVLA purchased 33 acres of property on Crane Road near the intersection of Randall Road and Silver Glen in St. Charles. This is a very valuable site and well-suited to the school's plans for a high school facility. The value of that land is currently worth more than 8 times its original purchase price.

Yet the value of the property is not found in its monetary worth alone. Its size and prime location are both very advantageous. Bordering the north property line is the setting recently purchased by the St. Charles School District for the future development of an elementary and a middle school. The neighbor to the immediate south is St. Patrick's Catholic Church with their long range plans of eventually building an elementary school. The southeast corner of the property adjoins Christ Community Church at its location along Randall Road. All of these neighboring property uses will give high visibility for the high school to potentially interested target audiences in the future. Another exciting asset of the location is found directly across Crane Road where there is a wetland nature preserve

that can provide hands-on laboratory and learning experiences in the areas of ecology, biology, botany, and environmental studies. It is truly a definite advantage to have such a site so close at hand.



In the past several years work has been done to invest in and maintain the property's value. A wetland study was commissioned to insure that none of the acreage had existing wetland vegetation. Drain tile repair was completed to assure that the site remain well-drained. Most recently, a group of volunteers, mostly alumni, worked to disassemble and remove an aging trailer along with other items on the site that were no longer of service to the school.

To increase interest and give visibility to plans, a sign has been erected on the property to mark and advertise the future home of Fox Valley's Lutheran high school. The sign can be seen and the property viewed by driving south on Crane Road from its intersection with Silver Glen. A visit to the site will inspire participation in realizing the vision to develop the sustainable future for Lutheran secondary education in the Fox Valley.

Contact FVLA at:

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Fox Valley Lutheran Academy

220 Division Street
Elgin, IL 60120

**Dinner
Auction
April 19, 2008**

Non-Profit
Organization
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