

Dear Parents,

We are off and running with another new school year at Fletcher Academy. I will be doing a parent newsletter almost every week just to let the parents know what is going on at the school.

The enrollment is good at Fletcher Academy, with 156 students registered. The breakdown is Freshmen 40, Sophomores 41, Juniors 34, Seniors 41. There are 90 students in the dorm, which is more students than the dorm has had in many, many years. Everyone is excited about the new year and the atmosphere on campus is very positive.

Last Sabbath the entire student body was invited to "Sabbath in the Mountains". The weather was good and the students and faculty enjoyed fellowshiping together in small groups, eating a delicious picnic lunch, and going on a hike. Craggy Gardens was the location of this year's retreat. Saturday night was the annual "Class Scramble" where students work together as a class to see who has the most random things that Mr. Smith might call. Surprisingly, most groups had all sorts of random things from gum to coins to irons to baseball hats, to name just a few items. At the end of the game the Junior class was excited to have won by over 100 points!

The seniors have left for senior survival Thursday and will be back on Sunday. They will be camping with minimum camping equipment and doing lots of team building activities which draw them closer as a class. This is also a very spiritual time where Mr. Bass leads out in various spiritual encounters and the students are given time to write in a prayer journal and have their own personal time with God. They will be choosing class officers too on this retreat. The original place they had planned to camp was just closed due to lots of bear activity, but thankfully Mr. Bass was able to find another place for 50 people to camp on short notice.

While the seniors are having their bonding time at senior survival, all the other classes will be having class parties on Saturday evening. This is when they too will all be choosing class officers as well as planning for Fall Picnic which will be coming up soon. The freshmen will be meeting at the assembly room at 7:45 and the juniors will be meeting at the Bunches house at 6:30 for their class parties/vespers. As of this writing the sophomore class had not finalized their plans.

Chapel this week was presented by the new campus chaplain, Mrs. Eileen States. She talked to the students about encouraging one another as a new school year starts, and reaching out to others with Jesus' love. Then the students broke up into small prayer groups to pray for the new school year and God's blessings on the campus, as well as pray for each other.

Seniors have filled out interest inventories this week in preparation for the career counseling that will be starting next week. Each senior will have an hour session with a career counselor to help them figure out what careers they may be interested in based on their interests and abilities. The school is paying for this, so it will not be any extra costs to the parents.

Intramural sports have begun, with football being the first sport played. Intramurals meet Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings before study hall and then on Sundays two games, one starting at 5:15 and one starting at 6:15.

This next week during intramural time (6:15-7:15) preliminary games for fall picnic will begin. Fall picnic is a huge class-on-class competition in various running and sporting events. On Monday, Aug. 29 the

Freshman/Junior girls game and Sophomore/Senior guys football games will be played. On Aug. 30 will be the Freshman/Junior guys game and the Sophomore/Senior girls game. On Wed. will be the 5K run which all classes will be competing in, and on Thurs. will be the consolation game for the two teams that lost during the football games earlier in the week.

Saturday evening, September 3, the fall picnic officially begins with classes parading in with their class banners, the S.A. officers leading the way, and the hill being lit. Then the games begin with all the racing activities. The competition is tough, but all the kids have a great attitude about things and spirits are high as classes work together to gain as many points as they can in each event. Parents are invited to come and cheer on their child's class in all the events. Sunday the events continue all day long and this is a required school day, so all students must be in attendance. Parents are again invited to come. Even better, bring some drinks or snacks for your child's class and join the school for a lunch at the field.

We are glad things are off to such a great start at Fletcher. . . .

Mary Beth Hagan  
Parent Newsletter Correspondent