



## Upcoming Dates

March 16: In-service Day (No School)  
 March 25-29 : Spring Break  
 April 1: Easter Monday (No School)  
 April 11: Parent / Teacher (evening)  
 April 12: Parent / Teacher (No School)

## School Contact Information:

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## APPLICATIONS!

Please turn in your applications for the 2024/25 school year as soon as possible. Returning students have until Friday, March 8th to get their applications in without risk of a losing their spot to a new student. After March 8th, the application fee increases from \$30 to \$60.

## The Future

Please continue to pray that God would reveal His plan for Faith Academy to the Board of Directors and the school leaders. We are actively considering the potential of a two-phase building project that would expand the High School and create space for a full-sized gymnasium. This dream is both very exciting and very intimidating as a project of this magnitude would involve a significant amount of planning and financial resources.

As uncertain as the future can be, it is a comfort to be reminded that God knows the future and has a perfect plan for Faith Academy. Our job is to align ourselves with Him and give Him the opportunity to lead us to exactly where He wants us to be.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;  
 'In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall <sup>[a]</sup>direct your paths.  
 Proverbs 3:5-6*

## Fundraising

Thank you for your continued generosity towards the various fundraisers we have been running at the school. Our meat and cheese fundraiser went very well raising over \$1000 for the VBS program that will be taking place near the end of June.

We are still exploring the best option for addressing the deterioration of the high school staff room. We are grateful for all of the funds that have been donated towards that project to date - nearly \$15,000! It's not too late to give, and all donations of \$20 or more will be eligible for a donation receipt.

## Mission Team to Romania

Another new year comes with another Trip for the Missions team! This year, we were blessed with the opportunity to go to Rasa, Romania! Partnering with Gateway to Hope Romania, we had the opportunity to serve the community in Rasa in several ways. We landed in Bucharest on Saturday afternoon and were greeted by our lovely host, Reinhart Neufeld, as well as our translators for the week. During our week in Rasa and other neighboring villages, we spent our days giving back to the community - whether it be House calls or performing our programs in schools. Most days were fast-paced and packed with things to do but there were a few days where we had time to connect and bond with the people there - which I can say was our whole team's favorite part.

Our main translator was Andrada; a high school student like us. During our stay, she easily felt like part of our team. Her family, including her older sister Naomi, and her sister's husband Eremia, all played a big role in helping us communicate with the people there. Their passion for God was evident through our time with them and it was inspiring to see people, only two or three years older than us, so passionate about serving the Lord. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to help and connect on the level that we did. We are all grateful to them.

We stayed at the Gateway to Hope Centre in Rasa where we not only ate, bathed, and slept, but also hosted programs for people ranging from young kids to old ladies. Some churches invited us to perform and talk during their youth groups where, admittedly, we felt like celebrities with everyone asking us for photos! We would perform our program for them which would consist of a skit, a song either in English or Romanian, a game, and a testimony. It is safe to say that our skits were the most popular of all. This was partly because of Ezra Kleinsasser executing a perfect backflip during one of the skits, but also because of the message behind them. The most impactful part of the trip for most of us were the house visits we did in the neighbouring villages. We were exposed to poverty and despair, and it was an eye opening experience to be able to witness it.

Despite most people's circumstances, they were all joyful. Their faith in Christ led them through their hardships, and it was truly humbling and inspiring to see. The Romanian people are kind and hospitable and give freely despite their own difficult circumstances. We were truly blessed to be able to work amongst these people and to be part of God's work in Romania. Seeing the Spirit at work in so many ways was such a privilege to witness.

As we spent the last two days touring Romania, we reflected on our actions during the trip. As students, it's easy to make excuses about why we can't do more in terms of serving the Lord. But after hearing this one quote from Andrada, it's simply inexcusable to make those justifications. Because after all, 'We are students of God before we are students of this world'.

-Henni Biag





## February Fun!

February flew by as we celebrated I Love to Read Month in the Elementary by ‘Popping into Good Books’! Students strived to increase their reading stamina for a chance to win weekly prizes. They participated in book trivia, ‘read my shirt’ day, dropped everything and read, and were treated to a special guest reader – Mr. Jason Ingels, who read a book about the importance of his job... firefighting.

In addition to I Love to Read Month, grades 3 and 4 joined the high school students one morning and enjoyed some games in the Chapel and Gym, the younger students celebrated 100 days of school, and of course who can forget Valentine’s Day! We ended the month with an afternoon filled with STEM activities such as Lego building, winter bingo, hot chocolate and ice cream.

A huge thank you to the Parent Council who helped raise funds for our special activities and for all the hard work that the teachers and support staff put in throughout the month. It was a huge success!



-Mrs. Dyck

## Magic Sushi for the Win!

For hot lunch this month, we tried something a little different and was it ever successful! We decided to order Bento boxes, Cupbop and Bubble tea from Magic Sushi.

To our surprise, close to 90% of our student body ordered something for lunch that day. For the first time since I can remember, the classrooms at lunch were quiet and focused on devouring their food.



## Serving at UGM

Since January 17, FAMS has contributed to helping out UGM (Union Gospel Mission). UGM aims to help people find God and transform their lives. UGM has programs that provide the basic needs for underprivileged people.

When we got there, Sophia from 8B said, “I really liked UGM. There was this friendly guy who gave our class a tour of the place and afterwards we started helping out. Some of the students in our group were cleaning and organizing the kitchen and when we were done, the coordinator treated us with cookies. I was glad that I could help out and it turned out to be a good time.”

The Grade 5 & 7 students also seemed to enjoy their time at UGM too. Some of the students met people who lived there and seemed interested in our school. They sanitized areas, did the laundry and packed cookies. Everyone who went to UGM had a good time and really enjoyed helping as well. UGM isn’t only about doing volunteer work, it’s doing what God has called us to do. Remembering the needy and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



By:  
Nancy-Grace  
Merkley

