

# flourish



A Publication of Foothill Christian Schools

Dear Parents,

As parents we have only ONE opportunity to give our kids their childhood. Now that my three daughters are grown, I am keenly aware that what they got as



kids is it. I can't go back and change it or enhance it in the least. The memories of their youth are what they will carry throughout their lifetime. When I think about their experiences here at Foothill from preschool thru eighth grade, I am convinced they had a superior education and that is one aspect of their lives I wouldn't change for the world.

How do we make certain, in the midst of our busy, jam-packed lives, that our kids don't miss out on what matters most over the course of time?

Personal bias aside, I recently asked some of our teachers "Why should parents want their children in our schools?"

Linda McMeekin, a former public school educator who now teaches our junior high students, believes major differences include, "respect, excellent sports program, challenging curriculum, chapel, Christian teachers, parent involvement, modern facilities, cutting-edge technology and life-long friendships."

John Mehl (6th Grade): noted the "advanced academic standards and powerful student-teacher relationships," but firmly believes "Foothill is truly unique because in all we do, we pursue our calling to grow and press on toward truth, greatness and love: namely, Christ."



Linda McMeekin and a student

Nicole Lange (4th grade teacher) told me that when her children were starting kindergarten that she and her husband had to decide if a private school education was worth the financial sacrifice. "The decision was rather simple because we knew our children would get a great education and make friends with students whose families share our values. It wasn't long before I got the teaching bug again and now I'm in my eighth year with Foothill, and can honestly say I wouldn't want to teach anywhere else."

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## Important Spring/Summer Dates...

- January 31, 2008**  
2nd Quarter Awards Assemblies
- February 2, 2008**  
Daddy and Me Celebration, Preschool
- February 4, 2008**  
Baseline Parent Info Night (K - 8th)
- February 18, 2008**  
President's Day (School Closed)
- March 1, 2008**  
Jog-A-Thon/Wheel-A-Thon
- March 11, 2008**  
Route 66 Parent Information Night (Preschool)
- April 5, 2008**  
Preschool Family Open Enrollment
- June 9, 2008**  
Annual Charity Golf Classic

## Important Committees!

- Volunteer Programs Committee**  
Chair: Jan Valenzuela
- Room Parent Coordinators:**  
Gale Schaefer  
Rebecca Tsujimoto
- Jog-A-Thon Committee Chairs:**  
Lisa Gonzales  
Marilyn Sparks
- Annual Golf Classic Committee Chairs:**  
Jim Davidson  
Ray Fecteau
- School Business Directory Committee**  
Chair: David Bauer
- Grandparent's Day Committee Chairs:**  
Dennette Miramontes and  
Janette Robles



**FOOTHILL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**  
A Ministry of FOOHILLCHURCH

Preschool - 8th Grade  
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www.foothillchristian.org



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Association of Christian Schools International

Preschool teachers, Monica Hernandez and Martha Perez, described Foothill as “home away from home”— where children flourish in an environment of loving teachers and a staff you can trust.

After attending Foothill, Tifani Tate (5th Grade teacher and Class of '95 Alumni) said that she ranked “academically above the students at the public high school she attended.” With what she described as a “solid relationship with the Lord and a good head on my shoulders,” Ms. Tate was prepared to make good choices in all situations. “Foothill gave me all of that! I love this school so much that I came back to teach with a desire to make a difference in the lives of my students.”

Fifth grade teacher, Anna Kuwahara, commented that her own son, an 8th

grader at our Baseline campus, has become passionate about helping those in need. “Imagine a teenager wanting



Tifani Tate, making a difference!

to give up his ‘free weekend’ to go help those in Mexico. I attribute his awareness and sensitivity towards those in need to his loving Christian teachers at FCS.”

As parents, is it really a “dear price” that we’re paying when we send our kids to a great school? Or is it a ONE LIFETIME investment that will equip them to outperform their peers as they take their place in this competitive world?

When we fully understand the value of Christian education and the difference it can make to transform lives, I think we’d all agree that the investment is worth it. And, if you are like me, when you look back at the opportunities you gave your children during their most formative years, you will have no regrets.

- Bo Gutzwiller  
Head of School

## Moving Beyond Memory Verses

Carolyn Kitchel  
Base Line Vice Principal



Never underestimate the compassion, creativity and willpower of today’s youth! Our students and teachers are learning what it means to be burdened with the things

that break the heart of the Lord. They’re also looking for ways to be part of the solution. Let me share with you just a few of their endeavors from this current school year.

Our primary students have ministered to the elderly at local rest homes through correspondence and visitation. Our third graders and Junior Beta Team reached out to Skid Row’s urban poor with toys distributed through Fred Jordan Mission. Fourth graders collected needed supplies for West End Animal Shelter. Working with Operation Blessing, our fifth grade students raised enough money to purchase 5 goats for a village in Bulgaria. Sixth graders,

burdened for persecuted believers abroad, recently presented nearly \$700 to Open Doors in Orange County along with letters of encouragement for believers who are oppressed for their faith.

Hearing of the plight of Uganda’s forgotten children, our entire junior high sponsored our first Christian Rock Concert, selling cookies, bracelets and T-shirts toward their pledge of \$10,000 this school year! Through Invisible Children’s Schools for Schools program, they adopted a school in Uganda and have raised over \$6,000, surpassing USC in funds raised for this cause!



Raising awareness for Uganda’s invisible children.

We have only just begun to see what God will do when we chose to act and move beyond the memory verses. The spring is already jammed with plans – activities like day trips on the Metro to downtown Los Angeles for our annual Urban Plunge and an extended weekend trip to Mexico for ministry south of the border.

God is at work around us and Foothill Christian School students plan to be there!

Please contact our school office if you are interested in getting involved as we impact the world with the Good News.

## Anniversaries Celebrated

The FCS Staff Christmas banquet in December provided the perfect venue to honor eight employees who have blessed Foothill families with their years of service. Bernice Lowell headed the longevity list with 25 years. When she accepted the position of Finance Director in 1982 she remarked that the job “was only supposed to last for two years!” A quarter of a century later, she remains busier than ever, working an average ten hour day at our Baseline campus.

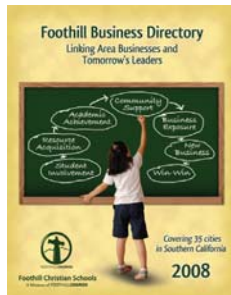
Also honored was, Baseline Librarian, Sandi Douglas (15 years); Nancy Holliday, David Bartholomew, Barbara Basham and Steve Reynolds (10 years); Jacob Gaines and Jennifer Burris (5 years). Congratulations and many thanks for your faithful service!



## A Win-Win for Everyone!

The 2008 School Business Directory, completed last month, features a record-high 220 listings of businesses covering 35 cities in Southern California. Committee Chairman, David Bauer, expressed gratitude to all businesses that supported our students through this effort. A percentage of all ad sales will be used to defray trip expense for 8th grader's going to

Washington D.C. this year, as well as FCS Chess Team and Cheerleaders who will be competing in the nationals. PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES LISTED IN THE 2008 DIRECTORY. Contact the school office for additional directories.



Gloria Perea (L) and daughter, Monica Cosio, co-own My Girlfriend's Kitchen, a FCS family business featured in our 2008 directory.



L to R: Lead Pastor, Chris Lewis, Bernice Lowell and FCS Head of School, Bo Gutzwiller.

## Reading Counts at FCS!

Teresa Parks, Vice Principal, Grand Avenue Campus

Developing skilled readers and effective writers is critical to a child's success in school and life. The value of strong reading curriculum cannot be overstated.

That's why the FCS curriculum committee, comprised of teachers and I, spent an entire year reviewing reading textbooks and language arts programs. Houghton Mifflin, a state approved publisher was adopted along with the nationally recognized Four Square Writing Method.



Reading Counts is another supplemental program that inspires children to read. Once assessed, children select

books at their independent reading level and take comprehension tests when finished. Children earn awards for reaching their grade level goals.

Librarian, Sandi Douglas, reports the circulation statistics for last quarter indicated our students checked-out approximately 3,200 books. During that same quarter, both Baseline and Grand Avenue students read and passed the comprehension tests for over 3,500 books. With over 22,000

volumes in our library and over 5,000 Reading Counts tests, the students won't be running out of selections any time soon!

## Annual Jog-A-Thon Planning-wise...the Race is On!

Plans are underway for the March 1st Jog-A-Thon. Event coordinators, said that their committee is hoping to raise \$70,000 in gifts and pledges toward Grand Avenue's Extreme Makeover and other projects. A special volunteer job has been reserved just for you! Contact our Volunteer Office, ext. 1225.



## Annual Charity Golf Classic

A Perfect Way to Spend a Day!

Foothill's Golf Classic is scheduled for June 9th at Red Hill Country, Rancho Cucamonga. Event leaders, Ray Fecteau and Jim Davidson, are anticipating an "unprecedented" response to this annual fundraising event. Whether you already filled out the pre-commitment card at Welcome Back to School Night in September or you just want to sign-up now, please contact our Development Office at extension 1163 or email:

[jkitchel@foothillchristian.org](mailto:jkitchel@foothillchristian.org)



## Meet Stephen & Katie



**Chris Lewis**  
Lead Pastor

This past December we hired two new staff members at Foothill Church, Stephen and Katie Coppenrath. Katie will work as our office manager and will help coordinate our exploding children's program. Stephen will work as an associate pastor and be the coordinator of our new Middle School ministry. I'm excited to introduce you to Stephen and Katie and wanted Stephen to give you a brief description of this new ministry. Foothill family . . . Meet Stephen. Stephen . . . Meet the Foothill family.

Foothill Church meets at 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. on Sunday morning. For more information visit [www.foothillchurch.net](http://www.foothillchurch.net)

## iMpaCt 6.8

I'm excited to announce we've just launched iMpaCt 6.8, our brand new Middle School Ministry right here at Foothill Church. Our first Sunday together was January 27th.

In today's world, students face many important choices when it comes to who their friends will be and how they will be defined as they grow into young adults. iMpaCt 6.8 will be a place where our middle school students will meet great friends, be influenced by godly leaders, experience God through worship and relevant biblical teaching, learn to iMpaCt the world around them, and have fun! We want to partner with parents to help our students not only understand who Jesus is, but also the amazing iMpaCt He has on those who follow Him. Most importantly, we want to see God captivate their young hearts and maximize their iMpaCt in this world for His glory.



Stephen & Katie Coppenrath

If you are the parent of a middle school student (6th – 8th grade), we would love to meet you! Earlier this month (January 20th) we held a parent information meeting right after our 10.45 service in the Grand Avenue library (above the Family Room). During that meeting we explained more about this new and exciting ministry, provided some details about upcoming events and gave parents an opportunity to meet with the iMpaCt 6.8 leaders. For those of you who didn't have the chance to be there, I would encourage you to stop by the church office, give me a call, or go to [www.foothillchurch.net](http://www.foothillchurch.net) to find out more about iMpaCt 6.8.

For those of you who don't yet have a church home we would love for you to come out and give Foothill Church a try. We've created a comfortable place for you to grow close to the Lord and be in community with others. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:45 and we would love to see you there! Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions. You can reach us at 626.914.1780.

Looking Forward,

Stephen Coppenrath  
Associate Pastor  
**FOOTHILLCHURCH**



**Enrolling now for  
Fall 2008!**

A Ministry of FOOHILLCHURCH

FOOTHILL CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL



**flourish**  
Spring 2008

**Foothill Christian Schools**  
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